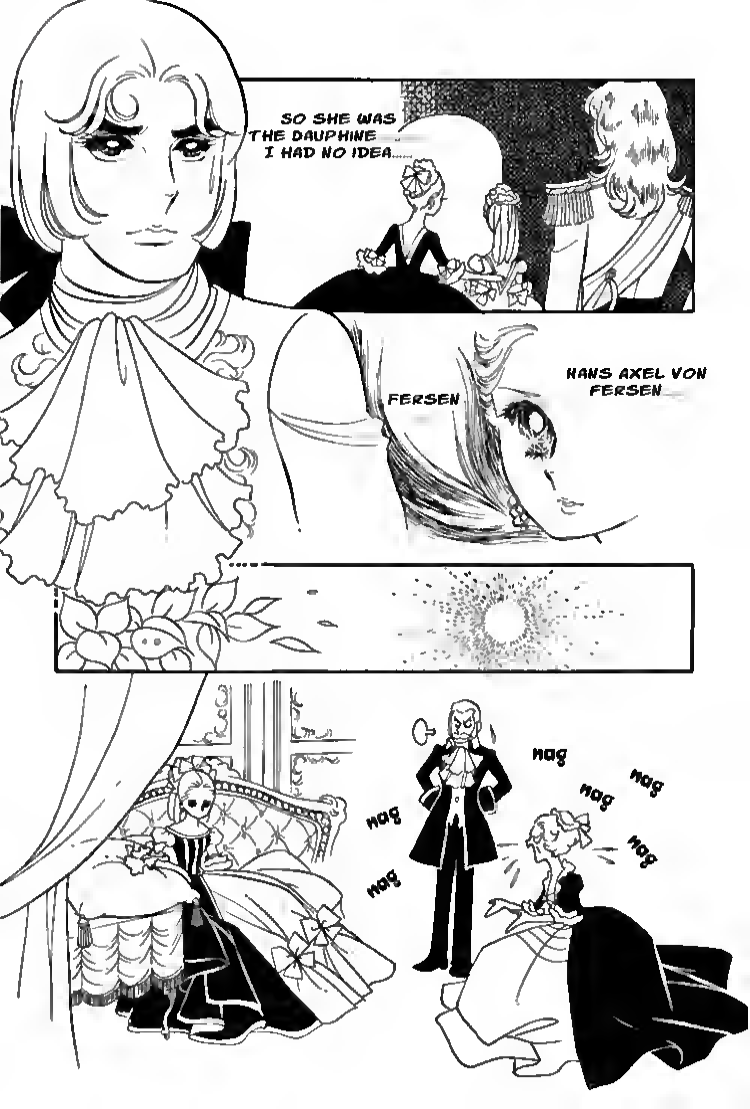
Lililicious~may its fragrance encompass you
lilicious@hanmail.net, http://lililicious.net

Intoxicated with Glory

YOUNG MAN?
PUSH!
YOU LOOK ABOUT THE AGE WHERE YOU'D BE CALLED THE SAME
AND IT'S POLITE TO GIVE ONE'S OWN NAME FIRST WHEN ASKING ANOTHER FOR HIS
I AM OSCAR FRANCOIS DE JAR-JAYES,
CAPTAIN OF THE FRENCH ROYAL GUARDS

I AM A SWEDISH COUNT BECAUSE I'M CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD, I HAVE NO POSITION UNTIL I RETURN TO MY COUNTRY
MY NAME IS HANS AXEL VON FERSEN
NOHO! SO YOU'RE IN THE ROYAL GUARDS IT'S NO WONDER YOU'RE SO HANDSOME
VON FERSEN! IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK WITH THIS WOMAN...
VERY WELL!
YOU SHOULD COME TO VERSAILLES AND FORMALLY REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH HER!
SHE IS MARIE ANTOINETTE, THE DAUPHINE OF FRANCE

Oh.....!!
IT SEEMS SHE'S BEEN RECOGNIZED IT'S CAUSED QUITE A STIR
YES, MONSIEUR OSCAR
CONVEY THE DAUPHINE TO THE SEATING AREA!
MADAME!


SO SHE WAS THE DAUPHINE... I HAD NO IDEA...
FERSEN
HANS AXEL VON FERSEN
nag
nag
nag
nag
nag

HEHE... MADAME DE NOAILLES AND THE COUNT DE MERCY GAVE ME A SEVERE DRESSING DOWN
OSCAR
BUT DON'T WORRY YOU DON'T BEAR ANY OF THE BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED
YOUR HIGHNESS,
A YOUNG SWEDE BY THE NAME OF FERSEN HAS REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU...
I-...IS THAT SO?
OH...
VERY WELL... SHOW HIM TO MY ROOM...
YES!
HU-...NH...!
SO HE DID COME...

What was that sparkle that shone in the gazes of the two 18-year-olds in that instant...?
Neither the most beautiful woman in Versaillea, the future queen whose greatest fear was that of boredom,
nor the handsome, patrician Scandinavian knight realized the curtain was being raised on one of the greatest love atories in history.....

Fersen was greatly favored over the other foreigners currently staying in Versailles, and was inducted into French high-class society.
At Versailles' many balls,
Reserved, reticent, and calm— but not gloomy in the slightest— Fersen seemed to be overflowing with human kindness.
The young ladies of Versailles felt their hearts all aflutter over him, and spoke incessantly of him among each other.
Even married women sent him love letters brimming with passion.

HER HIGHNESS?
LAUGHING AND DANCING AROUND AND CONSTANTLY BEING SCOLDED BY MADAME DE NOAILLES
NO, NOT REALLY... SHE'S STILL ACTING LIKE A TOMBOY,
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HER HIGHNESS LATELY?
ANDRÉ
YOU MEAN ABOUT THAT MAN NAMED FERSEN?
THEN THERE'S NO REAL CAUSE FOR WORRY YET
SIGH
I SEE... WELL, IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED ANYTHING...
THAT TENDENCY MAY POSE A GREAT DANGER TO HER SOMEDAY...
HER HIGHNESS IS HONEST ABOUT DISPLAYING HER FEELINGS THAT'S QUITE RARE HERE AT VERSAILLES

I HOPE NEITHER FATE EVER BEFALLS HER.....
END UP BEING EITHER ISOLATED OR BANISHED FROM THE PALACE...
IN THIS PALACE, THOSE WHO IGNORE CONVENTIONAL CUSTOMS AND MANNERS TO BEHAVE IN AN HONEST, MORE HUMAN MANNER
FROM NOW ON... PLEASE STAY BY THE DAUPHINE'S SIDE AND OBSERVE HER MORE CAREFULLY THAN BEFORE
LISTEN TO ME, ANDRÉ
ALL RIGHT! I UNDERSTAND
IF A RUMOR STARTS IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO ACT
STARE
....
THAT'S WOMEN'S INTUITION, RIGHT?
HOW SHARP!
WOW!
IT IS ABSOLUTELY INADMISSIBLE! WHATEVER WOULD WE DO IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE WERE TO OCCUR?!
IF YOU WISH TO EXERCISE YOUR TOMBOYISH TENDENCIES, PLEASE DO SO IN MODERATION!
SHOCKED!
WHAAAAT?! A HORSE?!
M- M- M- MY WORD!!

PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR POSITION! IF, BY A ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE, SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO OUR FUTURE QUEEN, FRANCE WOULD...
NO!!!
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO ISN'T ALLOWED TO RIDE A HORSE?
OSCAR WILL BE WITH HER AS WELL, AND ANDRÉ TOO IF IT WERE JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES
NOW NOW THERE'S NO HARM IN ALLOWING HER TO DO IT MADAME DE NOAILLES.
YOU ARE TOO LENIENT ON THE DAUPHINE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
ALL RIGHT, ANDRÉ, HOLD THE LEAD!

THANK YOU, ANDRÉ
AND YOU MUST BE ABSOLUTELY SURE NOT TO KICK THE HORSE'S FLANKS
PLEASE HOLD THE BOTTOM OF THE REINS,
AND PULL ON THEM WHEN YOU WISH TO STOP
AH!!
thud
twist...
KYAA!!
whinny

clop clip
shriek
clip
AHH !!
DAMN! THE DAU-PHINE!!

Giddyup!!
clop
clip
AHHHH! SOMEONE HEEEELP!
SMACK
SOMEONE HEEEELP!
clip
clop
clip
HELP! HEEEELP!!
OSCAAAR!

YOUR HIGHNESS! PLEASE!! PLEASE KEEP HOLD OF THE REINS UNTIL I OVERTAKE YOU!!
clip
clop
clip
clop
clip
OSCAR ~~~!!
thud
thud
thud
thud

OSCAR!!
YOUR HIGHNESS! PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES!!
THERE'S A CLIFF AHEAD!! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP THE HORSE!
SSSP
HA!

!d
.uh
t

THE FACT THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM EXECUTION!!
THE DAUPHINE HAS BEEN INJURED DUE TO YOUR ACTIONS
ANDRÉ. ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING CAUSED THIS MOST GRAVE INCIDENT?!
ARREST HIM!!
Please wait!!

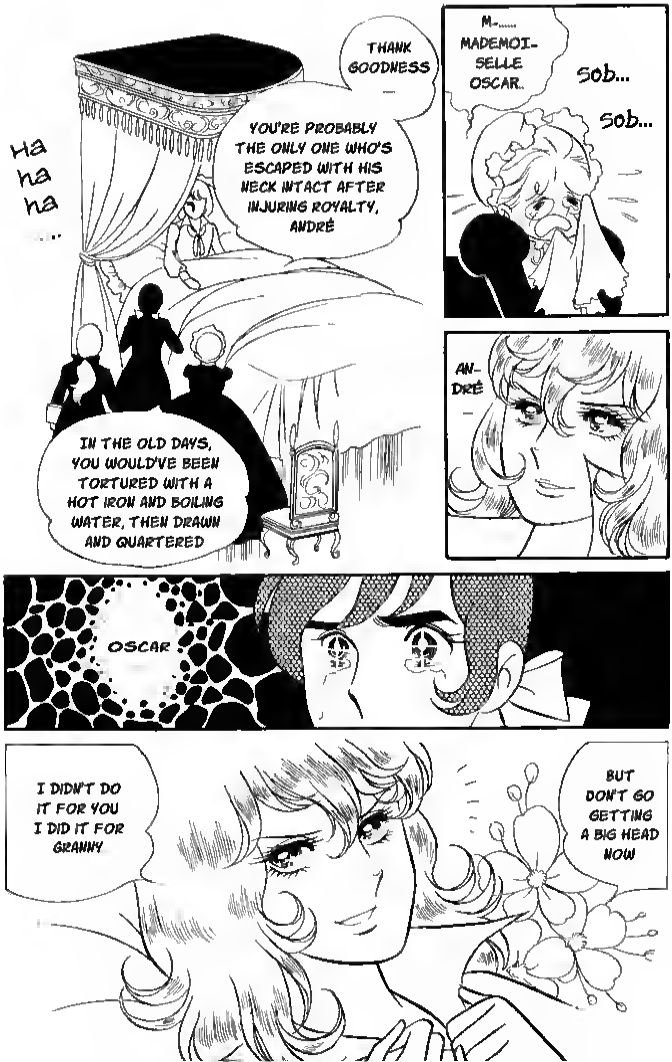
MADAME DE NOAILLES, COUNT DE MERCY, YOUR HIGHNESS THE DAUPHIN, COUNT DE FERSEN
AND ANY OTHERS THAT WITNESSED THE INCIDENT!
PLEASE WAIT_
YOU MUST ALL HAVE SEEN IT! THOUGH HE MAY HAVE BEEN CARELESS, ANDRÉ IS NOT AT FAULT!
IF YOU INSIST ON LAYING THE BLAME FOR THIS INCIDENT ON ANDRÉ_
IF_

BECAUSE AS ANDRÉ'S MASTER, HIS RESPONSIBILITY IS IN FACT MY RESPONSIBILITY ...
I, OSCAR FRANÇOIS, ASK THAT YOU TAKE MY LIFE FIRST, HERE AND NOW!
THEN IN THE NAME OF THE JARJAYES FAMILY, I REQUEST A FORMAL TRIAL!
OTHER-WISE...
OSCAR!!
I, TOO, CAN DIE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, OSCAR
ANDRÉ IS NOT THE ONE AT FAULT
FERSEN
I BEG OF YOU, YOUR MAJESTY!
FERSEN?!
A-... AND MINE AS WELL ...

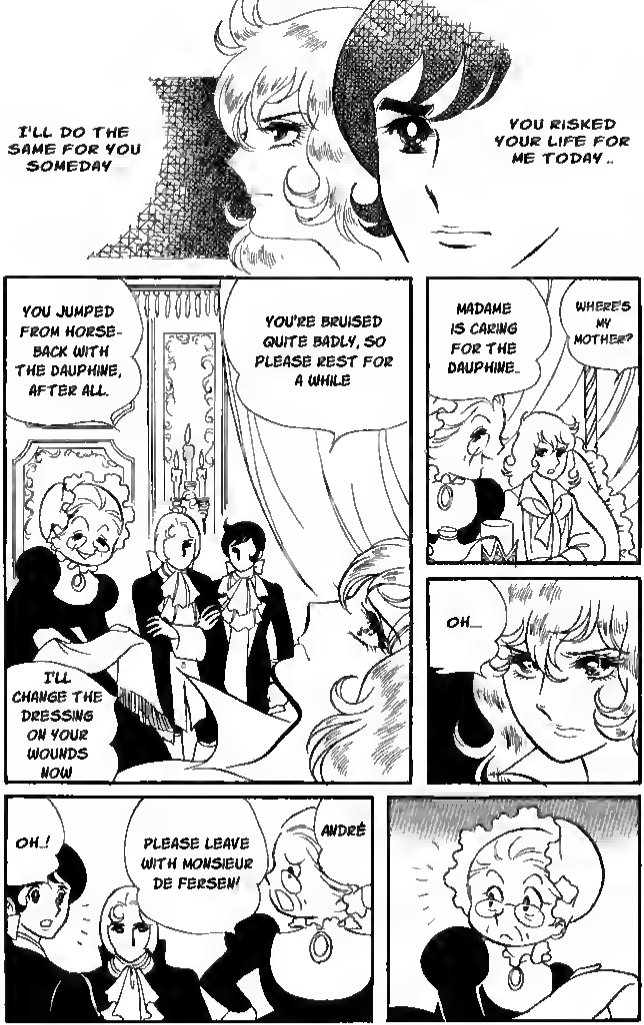
YOUR MAJESTY! AH! PLEASE..... PLEASE DO NOT FORCE ANYONE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS INCIDENT...
I AM THE ONE AT FAULT IT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF MY SELFISHNESS_
YOUR MAJESTY THE KING!!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
AH! I COULDN'T IMAGINE ALLOWING ANY ONE OF YOU TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME!
NONE OF YOU HAVE COMMITTED ANY CRIME! STAND DOWN! NOW!
ANDRÉ! OSCAR! FERSEN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! HIS MAJESTY THE KING IS A VERY COMPASSION-ATE MAN!

IF THE DAUPHINE IS THAT DETERMINED... WE SHALL ALLOW THIS INCIDENT, AND THIS INCIDENT ALONE, TO GO UNPUNISHED
VERY WELL...
YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A FINE MASTER, ANDRÉ
YOUR MAJESTY .....!
drip drip
shriek
OSCAR!!
DIZZY ..... !
OSCAR?!
FER-SEN,
YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT THANKS I WON'T FORGET YOUR KINDNESS ON THIS DAY

OSCAR.
OSCAR.
OSCAR.
YOU'VE COME TO?!
OSCAR!


M-.....
MADEMOI-
SELLE
OSCAR.
Sob...
Sob...
AN-
DRÉ
THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'RE PROBABLY
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S
ESCAPED WITH HIS
NECK INTACT AFTER
INJURING ROYALTY,
ANDRÉ
Ha
ha
ha
IN THE OLD DAYS,
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN
TORTURED WITH A
HOT IRON AND BOILING
WATER, THEN DRAWN
AND QUARTERED
OSCAR
I DIDN'T DO
IT FOR YOU
I DID IT FOR
GRANNY
BUT
DON'T GO
GETTING
A BIG HEAD
NOW

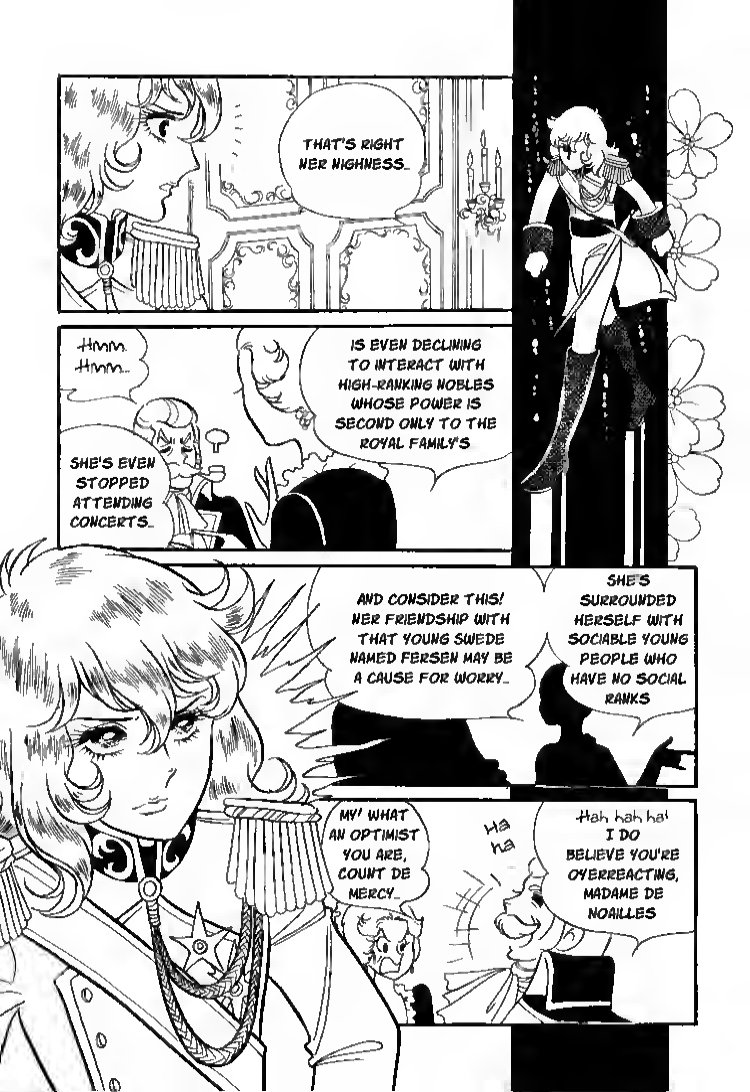
OH, DON'T CRY, GRANNY DON'T CRY
THE JARJAYES FAMILY WOULD HAVE TO HOLD TWO FUNERALS!
IF, AT HER AGE, HER ONE AND ONLY GRANDSON DIED BEFORE HER,
YOU MAY BE EASILY MOVED TO TEARS BECAUSE YOU'RE GETTING ON IN YEARS, BUT EVEN SO...
MADEMOISELLE OSCAR! MADEMOISELLE OSCAR!
Waaaaaaa
I'LL..... GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR YOU SOMEDAY...
OSCAR...
A ha ha
WHO'S GETTING ON IN YEARS?!
THESE ARE TEARS OF FRUSTRATION! THEY REALLY ARE!


I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU SOMEDAY
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ME TODAY..
YOU JUMPED FROM HORSE-BACK WITH THE DAUPHINE, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE BRUISED QUITE BADLY, SO PLEASE REST FOR A WHILE
I'LL CHANGE THE DRESSING ON YOUR WOUNDS NOW
MADAME IS CARING FOR THE DAUPHINE..
WHERE'S MY MOTHER?
OH...
OH..!
PLEASE LEAVE WITH MONSIEUR DE FERSEN!
ANDRÉ

snaaaap!
YOU CERTAINLY THINK HIGHLY OF YOURSELF
NOT SHOWING YOUR BODY TO OTHER MEN.. IT'S LIKE YOU THINK YOU'RE ROYALTY!
Aaaaaaaa!
HOW DARE YOU. SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT MADEMOISELLE ...?!!
Get
Owwt!
IS A WOMAN?!
S-SO OSCAR
Pant
Pant
Pant

NO WONDER....
SHE'S TOO SLENDER TO BE A MAN....
OSCAR....
NOW FRAGILE SHE IS....!
AND YET... WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE PERSON!!
UH... I HAVEN'T SEEN OUR VISITOR FROM SWEDEN AT VERSAILLES RECENTLY
MADAME DE NOAILLES,

NOW THEN, YOUR REGULAR AUDIENCE IS SET TO BEGIN SHORTLY IN THE HALL OF MIRRORS
HE IS CURRENTLY PURSUING HIS STUDIES, SO HE HAS MANY OBLIGATIONS TO ATTEND TO.
THAT'S RIGHT
OH...
YOUR HIGH-NESS?!
I'LL BE RETURNING TO MY ROOM NOW PLEASE TELL THE KING AND THE DAUPHIN
COUNT DE MERCY, I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD TO HOLD AN AUDIENCE TODAY


THAT'S RIGHT HER HIGHNESS..
Hmm. Hmm..
SHE'S EVEN STOPPED ATTENDING CONCERTS..
IS EVEN DECLINING TO INTERACT WITH HIGH-RANKING NOBLES WHOSE POWER IS SECOND ONLY TO THE ROYAL FAMILY'S
SHE'S SURROUNDED HERSELF WITH SOCIABLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO SOCIAL RANKS
AND CONSIDER THIS! HER FRIENDSHIP WITH THAT YOUNG SWEDE NAMED FERSEN MAY BE A CAUSE FOR WORRY..
MY! WHAT AN OPTIMIST YOU ARE, COUNT DE MERCY..
Ha ha
Hah hah ha! I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE OVERREACTING, MADAME DE NOAILLES

Rose of Versailles

chapter 8

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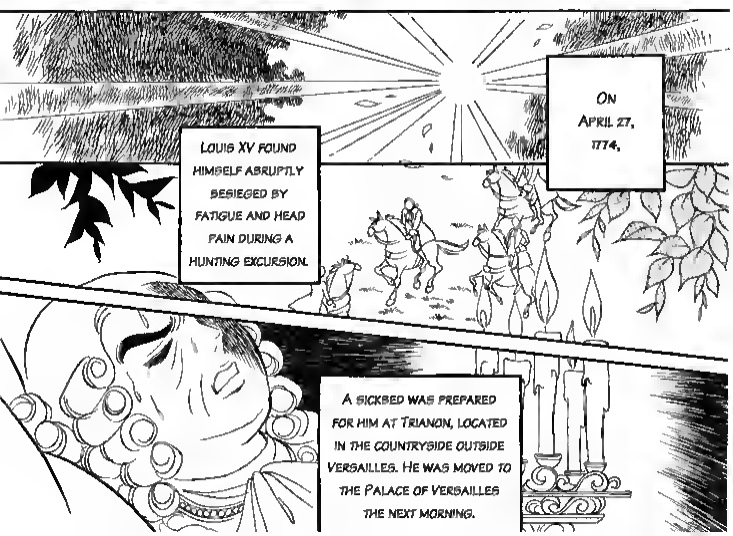
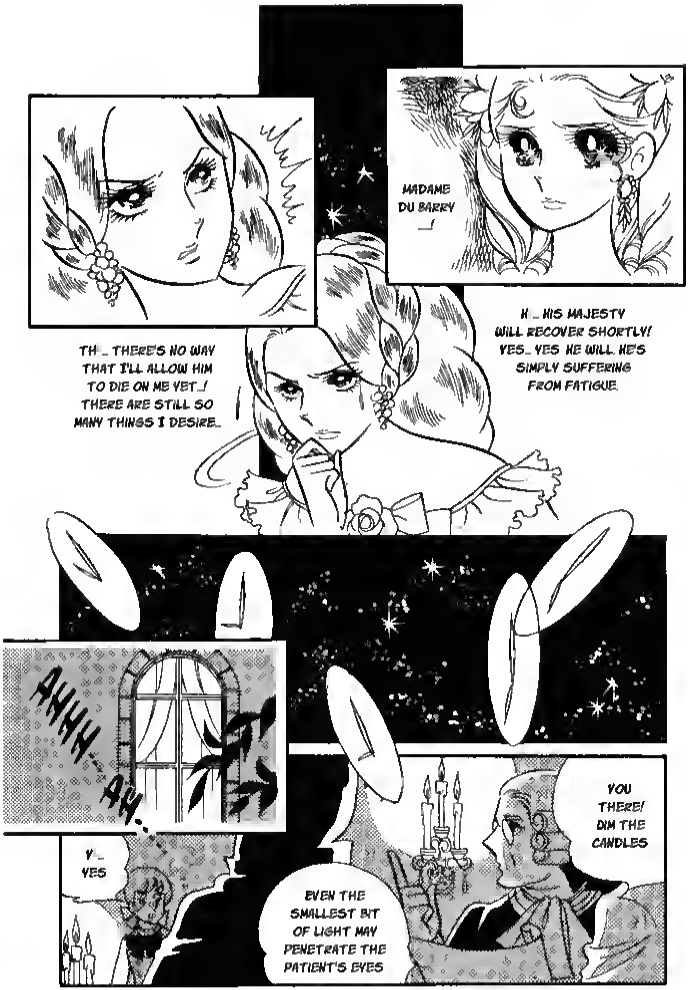

On April 27, 1774,
Louis XV found himself abruptly besieged by fatigue and head pain during a hunting excursion.
A sickbed was prepared for him at Trianon, located in the countryside outside Versailles. He was moved to the Palace of Versailles the next morning.

WHAT?! THE KING IS ILL?!
HE IS?!
WITHIN THE PALACE, A MEDICAL TEAM COMPOSED OF SIX PHYSICIANS, FIVE SURGEONS, AND THREE PHARMACISTS
IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT EXAMINING THE KING.
AGITATION AND UNEASE DESCENDED UPON THE COURT WITH THIS SUDDEN EVENT, SETTING EVERYONE AFLUTTER.

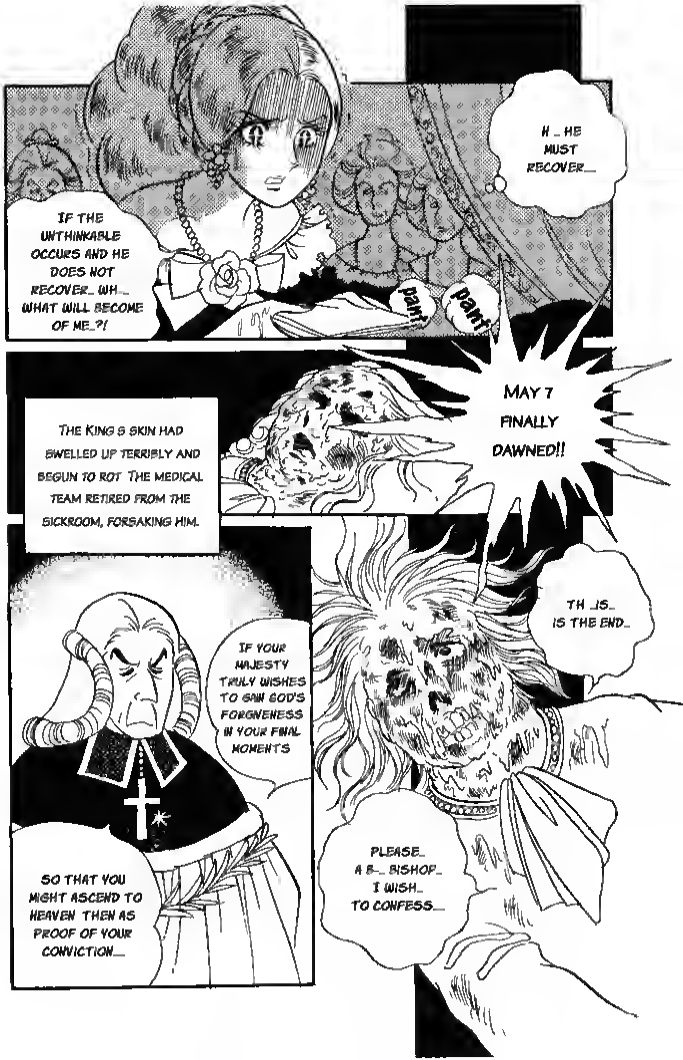
HER HIGHNESS ADELAIDE HER HIGHNESS VICTOIRE HER HIGHNESS SOPHIE
HIS HIGHNESS THE DAUPHIN HER HIGHNESS THE DAUPHINE THE COUNT D'ARTOIS THE COUNT DE PROVENCE
AND HER HIGHNESS ELISABETH
HAVE ARRIVED
WHAT IS THE KING'S CONDITION? WHAT AILS HIM?
WE... DON'T KNOW WE HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA
THE ENTIRE MEDICAL TEAM IS EXAMINING HIM TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES HOWEVER...
AHH
AHHH...!
YOUR MAJESTY! ARE YOU IN PAIN, YOUR MAJESTY?!
PLEASE HOLD ON!

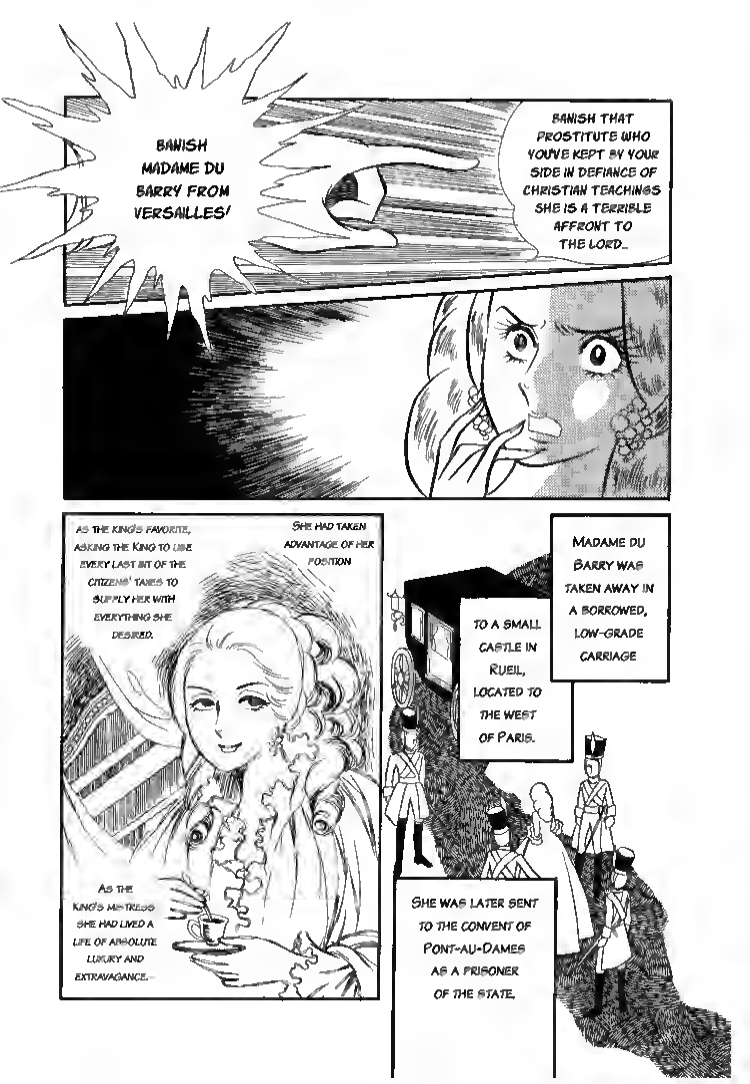

MADAME DU BARRY...!
TH...THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'LL ALLOW HIM TO DIE ON ME YET...! THERE ARE STILL SO MANY THINGS I DESIRE...
H...HIS MAJESTY WILL RECOVER SHORTLY! YES...YES HE WILL. HE'S SIMPLY SUFFERING FROM FATIGUE.
AHH-AH...
Y...YES
EVEN THE SMALLEST BIT OF LIGHT MAY PENETRATE THE PATIENT'S EYES
YOU THERE! DIM THE CANDLES

AH!
TAP...
GONG
CRRR

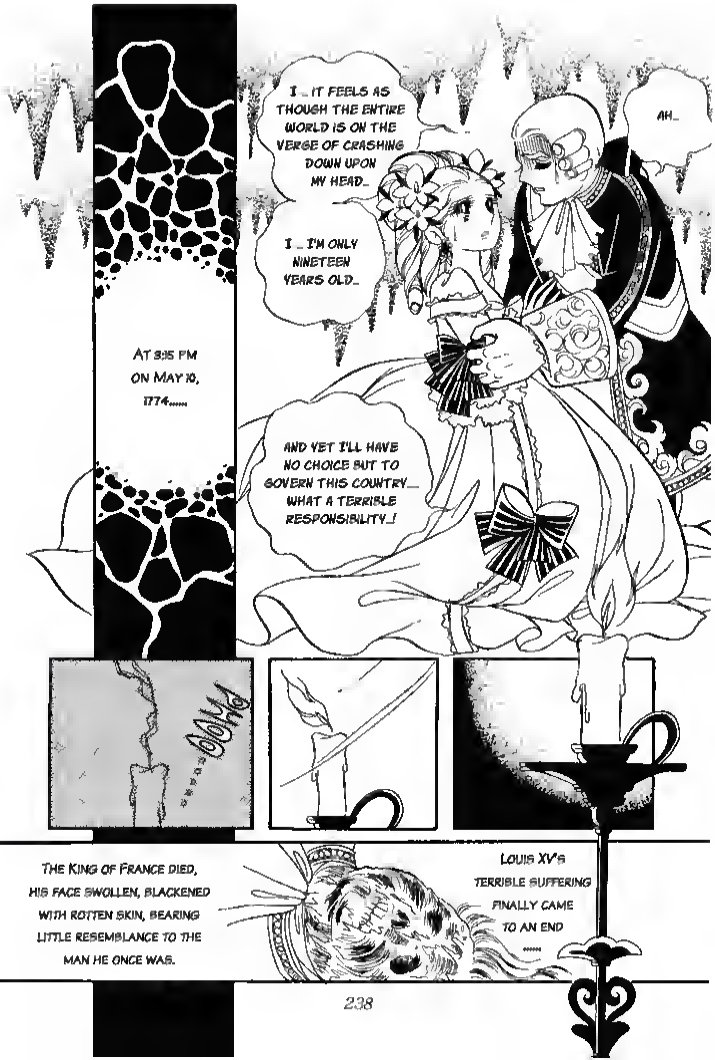
SMALL-POX!!
IT'S SMALLPOX!!
SMALLPOX
SMALLPOX, A VIRAL EPIDEMIC, CAUSES A RASH TO BREAK OUT OVER THE ENTIRE BODY. THE RASH FESTERS AND CAUSES HEMORRHAGING, AND THE VICTIM SUFFERS FROM A HIGH FEVER. IT IS FATAL. BEFORE A VACCINE WAS DEVELOPED, IT RAGED THROUGHOUT VARIOUS COUNTRIES, CLAIMING COUNTLESS LIVES.
OH NO!!
THE KING IS SUFFERING FROM SMALLPOX!!
YOUR HIGHNESS THE DAUPHIN! YOUR HIGHNESS THE DAUPHINE!!
IT IS SMALLPOX!! WE CANNOT RISK THE DAUPHIN AND DAUPHINE BEING INFECTED!
P-PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM IMMEDIATELY!!

TH... THEN... THE KING WILL...?!
S... SMALLPOX..?
AH... IT... CAN'T BE..?!
MARIE ANTOINETTE WAS MOVED TO THE FARTHEST ROOM FROM THE KING'S SICKROOM, TO MINIMALIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF INFECTION. HER HEART TREMBLED FIERCELY.
WOULD THE NEW POWER REPLACE THE OLD ONE AT LAST?!


IF THE UNTHINKABLE OCCURS AND HE DOES NOT RECOVER... WH... WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME..?!
H... HE MUST RECOVER...
pant
pant
THE KING'S SKIN HAD SWELLED UP TERRIBLY AND BEGUN TO ROT. THE MEDICAL TEAM RETIRED FROM THE SICKROOM, FORSAKING HIM.
MAY 7 FINALLY DAWNED!!
IF YOUR MAJESTY TRULY WISHES TO GAIN GOD'S FORGIVENESS IN YOUR FINAL MOMENTS
SO THAT YOU MIGHT ASCEND TO HEAVEN THEN AS PROOF OF YOUR CONVICTION...
TH...IS... IS THE END...
PLEASE... A B... BISHOP... I WISH... TO CONFESS...

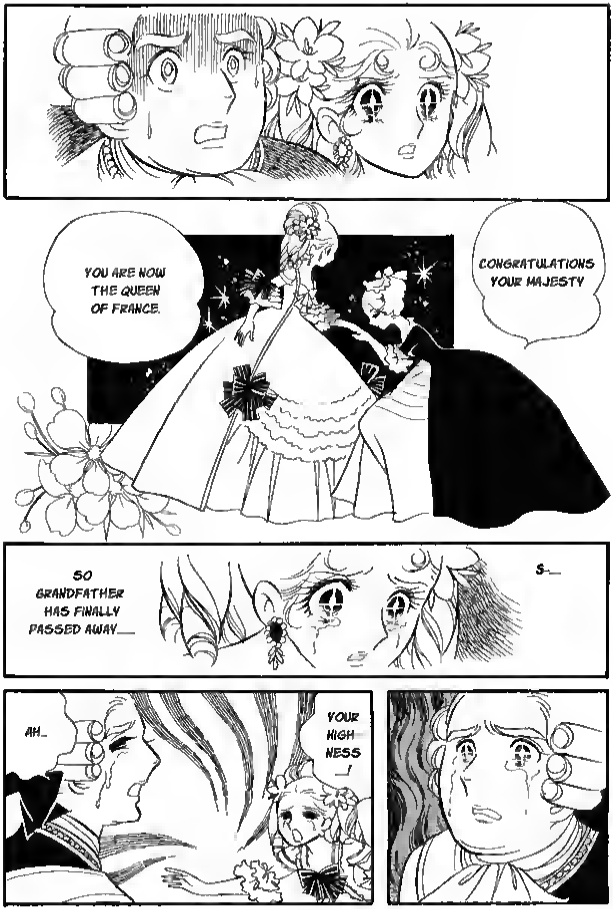

BANISH MADAME DU BARRY FROM VERSAILLES!
BANISH THAT PROSTITUTE WHO YOU'VE KEPT BY YOUR SIDE IN DEFIANCE OF CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS SHE IS A TERRIBLE AFFRONT TO THE LORD...
AS THE KING'S FAVORITE, ASKING THE KING TO USE EVERY LAST BIT OF THE CITIZENS' TAXES TO SUPPLY HER WITH EVERYTHING SHE DESIRED.
SHE HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HER POSITION
AS THE KING'S MISTRESS SHE HAD LIVED A LIFE OF ABSOLUTE LUXURY AND EXTRAVAGANCE...
MADAME DU BARRY WAS TAKEN AWAY IN A BORROWED, LOW-GRADE CARRIAGE
TO A SMALL CASTLE IN RUEIL, LOCATED TO THE WEST OF PARIS.
SHE WAS LATER SENT TO THE CONVENT OF PONT-AU-DAMES AS A PRISONER OF THE STATE.

THAT EVEN THE DAUPHINE HAD SUBMITTED TO HER.....
IT WAS THE END OF MADAME DU BARRY, A WOMAN WITH SUCH POWER
AT SIX O'CLOCK..... SHORTLY BEFORE THE KING'S IMMINENT DEATH, HE TOOK COMMUNION A FINAL TIME AND CONFESSED HIS SINS.
THE DAUPHIN AND DAUPHINE EXCHANGED A FINAL FAREWELL WITH THE KING.
tap
tap
tap
YOUR HIGH-NESS..?
PANT. PANT.


I... IT FEELS AS THOUGH THE ENTIRE WORLD IS ON THE VERGE OF CRASHING DOWN UPON MY HEAD...
I... I'M ONLY NINETEEN YEARS OLD...
AH...
AND YET I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GOVERN THIS COUNTRY... WHAT A TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITY...!
AT 3:15 PM ON MAY 10, 1774.....
DOOM
THE KING OF FRANCE DIED, HIS FACE SWOLLEN, BLACKENED WITH ROTTEN SKIN, BEARING LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO THE MAN HE ONCE WAS.
LOUIS XV'S TERRIBLE SUFFERING FINALLY CAME TO AN END .....

THUD THUD THUD
THE KING IS DEAD!!
THUD THUD THUD
THE KING IS DEAD!!
YOUR HIGH NESS!
WH— WHAT IS... THAT SOUND...?!
MADAME DE NOAILLES?!

LONG LIVE KING LOUIS XVI!!
MURRAY
THE KING IS DEAD!!


YOU ARE NOW THE QUEEN OF FRANCE.
CONGRATULATIONS YOUR MAJESTY
SO GRANDFATHER HAS FINALLY PASSED AWAY___
S-___
AH_
YOUR HIGH NESS_!

O LORD... PLEASE...
PLEASE GRANT US YOUR PROTECTION...
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO REIGN AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE
O LORD...
HURRAH...!
HURRAH...!
HURRAH...!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!!
LONG LIVE KING LOUIS XVI!!
LONG LIVE THE KING!!

THE NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD KING AND EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD QUEEN WERE SO YOUNG.....! THE FRENCH PEOPLE WELCOMED THEM WITH HEARTS FULL OF ENTHUSIASM AND HOPE.
THE OLD ERA HAD JUST COME TO A CLOSE.
AT LAST....
OH... OH...!
THEY'VE CROWNED A NEW KING!
MAMAN! MAMAN!
MARIE ANTOINETTE IS FINALLY QUEEN!!
THE NEW KING IS YOUNG, MODEST, RESERVED AND STUDIOUS....
IT'S SO WONDERFUL!
YOU NEED TO HURRY UP AND GET BETTER, MAMAN, SO YOU CAN LIVE A NICE LONG LIFE!
I'M SURE THE COST OF LIVING WILL GO DOWN NOW AND THINGS WILL BE EASIER!

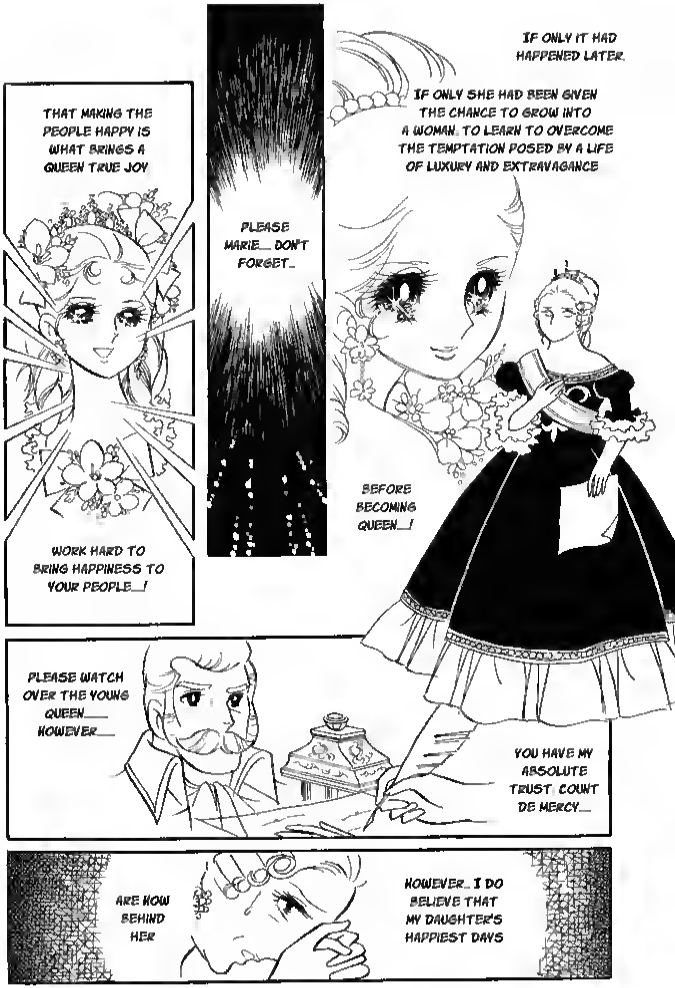
ROSALIE—
HOW'S JEANNE_?! IS SHE WELL?
S_ SO YOU KNOW_
THAT I WENT TO VISIT JEANNE___
YES, SHE'S WELL___
U_UM_ SHE WAS VERY KIND TO ME__ AND SHE SAID THAT SHE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU MAMAN
SHE'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS A PRINCESS__ SHE SEEMS HAPPY__
PLEASE FORGIVE ME ROSALIE__ V _ YOU'RE THE ONE__ WHO'S REALLY_
URSH_! FOR_ GIVE_ ME_
COUSH COUSH
MAMAN!!

AHAHA...
HURRAH!
LONG LIVE THE NEW KING! HURRAH!
LOUIS XV IS DEAD!
THAT DIRTY OLD BASTARD SPENT ALL OUR TAX MONEY ON HIS MISTRESS!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN JEANNE!
OUR ERA... YES! OURS...
LOUIS XV IS DEAD... A NEW ERA IS FINALLY DAWNING
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO MARRY ME?
JEANNE!
NICO-LAS!
TWIN

IN BECOMING THE DEVIL'S SERVANT AND HELPING ME TAKE POSSESSION OF THE MARQUISE DE BOULAINVILLIERS'S WEALTH?
AND HAVE YOU ANY INTEREST
AH! YOU TORMENT ME LIKE THE DEVIL BEAUTIFUL JEANNE!
YOU NEEDN'T ASK THAT BY NOW, JEANNE.
Heke....
JEANNE?!
Hehehe....
JEANNE ——?!
RÉTAUX ——
IS A MAN WHO IS INCREDIBLY SKILLED AT IMITATING OTHERS' HANDWRITING
HE'S WILLING TO DRAW UP A FAKE WILL OR ANYTHING ELSE WE NEED, NICOLAS

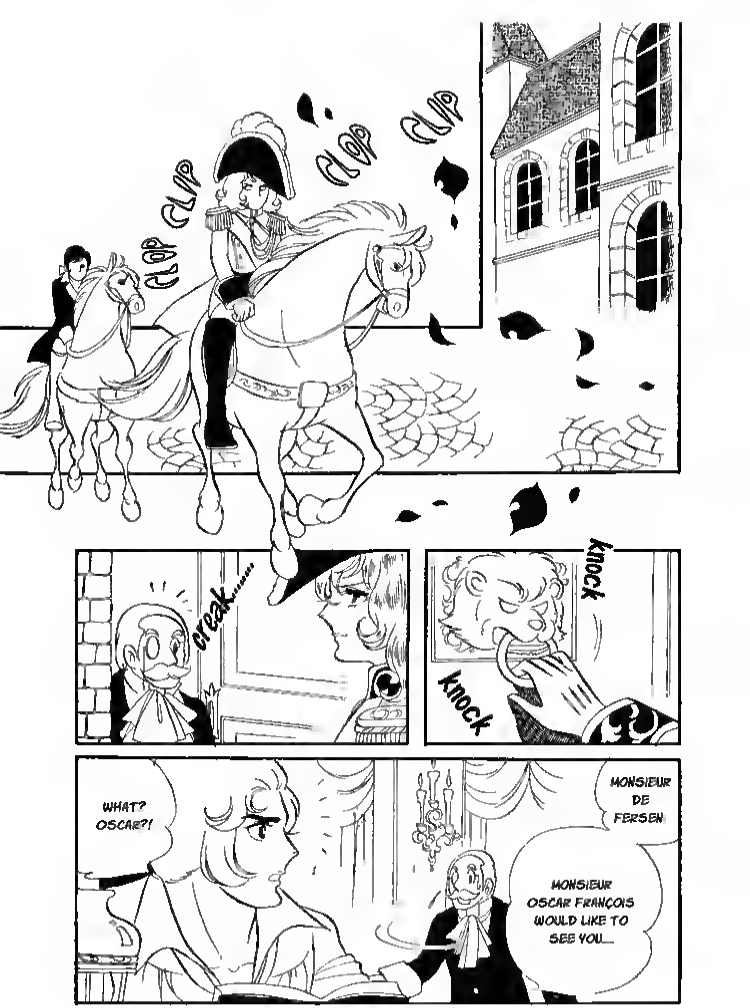
As the country was buzzing with happiness over the beginning of the new era,
Pictures of the new royal couple abounded in the city, both in the display windows of various shops and on medals.
Louis XV's casket was brought to the Saint Denis Basilica in the dead of night for burial.
Escorting the casket were merely forty Royal Guards and
six pages.

I, THE YOUNGEST OF YOUR CHILDREN, WAS BLESSED TO BE CHOSEN TO RULE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN EUROPE...
MOTHER, DID GOD___ BRING ME INTO THIS WORLD SO THAT I COULD BECOME THE QUEEN OF FRANCE__?
I CANNOT HELP BUT BE FILLED WITH WONDER
STILL A CHILD... WITH HER AVERSION TO DEEP THOUGHT AND LOVE OF PLAY___
SHE'S STILL A CHILD, UNABLE TO CONTROL HERSELF ...
SIGH
AHH...


IF ONLY IT HAD HAPPENED LATER.
IF ONLY SHE HAD BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO GROW INTO A WOMAN. TO LEARN TO OVERCOME THE TEMPTATION POSED BY A LIFE OF LUXURY AND EXTRAVAGANCE
THAT MAKING THE PEOPLE HAPPY IS WHAT BRINGS A QUEEN TRUE JOY
PLEASE MARIE... DON'T FORGET...
BEFORE BECOMING QUEEN...!
WORK HARD TO BRING HAPPINESS TO YOUR PEOPLE...!
PLEASE WATCH OVER THE YOUNG QUEEN... HOWEVER...
YOU HAVE MY ABSOLUTE TRUST. COUNT DE MERCY...
ARE NOW BEHIND HER
HOWEVER... I DO BELIEVE THAT MY DAUGHTER'S HAPPIEST DAYS

LOUIS XVI'S CORONATION WAS HELD ON JUNE 11, 1775, AT THE NOTRE-DAME DE REIMS CATHEDRAL.
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE PAST KINGS! HOW WONDERFUL...
AHH...! THIS WAS IN MY FRENCH HISTORY TEXTBOOKS...

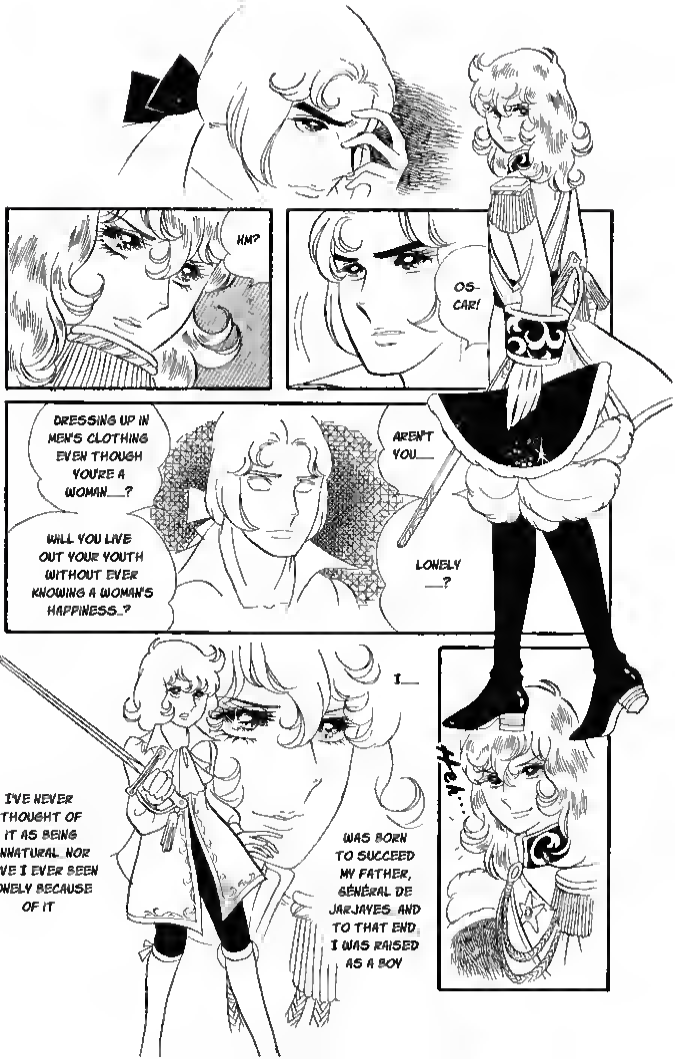
After the coronation, on the way back to Versailles, the procession stopped by the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, where a congratulatory address was given.
Who is the pale-faced student who just gave the congratulatory address in Latin?
Sir! I most humbly state that he is a law student named Maximilien de Robespierre.
That..... was Robespierre in his early years. Robespierre, who would later go down in history
Robes-pierre!
as the most progressive leader of the French Revolution.

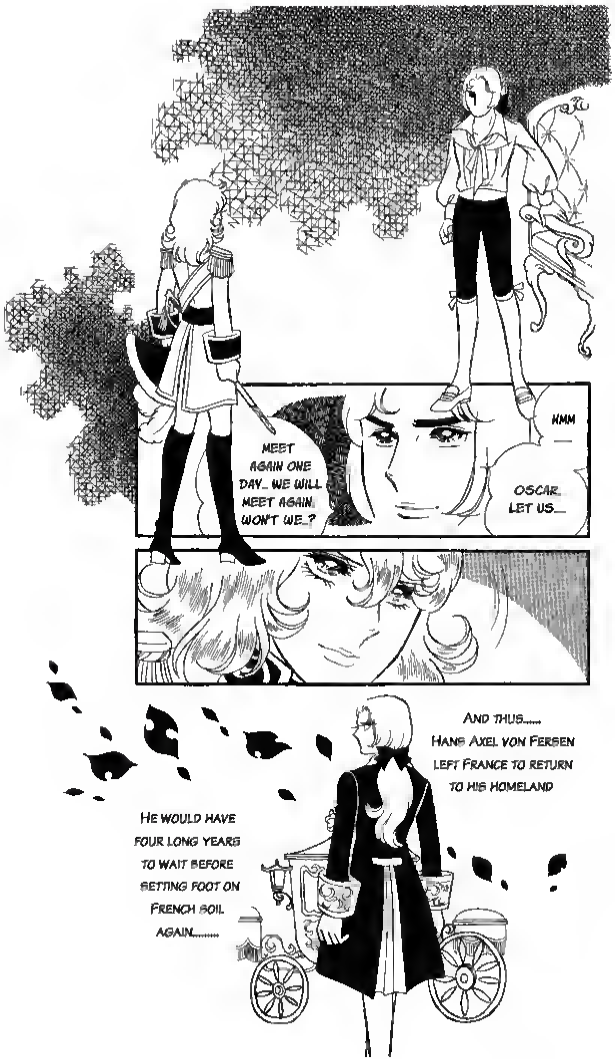

clop clop clop
creak.....
knock
knock
WHAT? OSCAR?!
MONSIEUR DE FERSEN
MONSIEUR OSCAR FRANÇOIS WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU...

I SEE
—
FERSEN... I'VE COME TO GIVE YOU A WARNING.
I HAVE A GOOD IDEA AS TO WHAT YOU'RE HERE ABOUT... COME IN...
COUNT DE FERSEN. IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU RETURNED TO SWEDEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SO YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER

BUT IT HAS NOT ESCAPED MY NOTICE. MADAME DE NOAILLES SEEMS TO BE AWARE OF IT AS WELL.
NOT YET
HAS SOMEONE... SEEN 5 READING GOSSIP ABOUT US...?
SO THIS IS ABOUT... HER... MAJESTY...
I WAS VAGUELY AWARE OF IT...
THAT THE QUEEN WAS A BIT TOO INTERESTED IN ME...
THAT SHE WAS TOO KIND TO ME...
BECAUSE SHE WAS A CHILD. CERTAIN KINDS OF BEHAVIOR WERE TOLERATED BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW!
SHE WAS ONLY THE DAUPHINE BEFORE. SHE WAS ALLOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF WHO SHE CHOSE TO KEEP BY HER SIDE AND WHAT SHE CHOSE TO DO

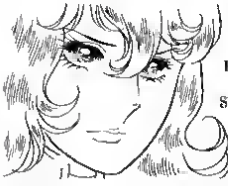
SHE IS THE QUEEN OF FRANCE!
FERSEN YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO SWEDEN FOR A WHILE.
LOOKING BACK ON YOUR PAST INTERACTIONS WITH HER
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SORT OF DANGER YOU COULD BE IN NOW
OSCAR ...
I... ALWAYS PLANNED TO LEAVE EVENTUALLY...
TO STAY AWAY LONG ENOUGH... TO BE FORGOTTEN BY THE COURT AT VERSAILLES...
QUEEN ANTOINETTE... IS TOO BEAUTIFUL ...!!


HM?
OS-CAR!
DRESSING UP IN MEN'S CLOTHING EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A WOMAN___?
WILL YOU LIVE OUT YOUR YOUTH WITHOUT EVER KNOWING A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS..?
AREN'T YOU___
LONELY ___?
I___
WAS BORN TO SUCCEED MY FATHER, GENERAL DE JARJAYES. AND TO THAT END, I WAS RAISED AS A BOY
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS BEING UNNATURAL NOR HAVE I EVER BEEN LONELY BECAUSE OF IT
Heh....


MEET AGAIN ONE DAY... WE WILL MEET AGAIN, WON'T WE...?
HMM —
OSCAR... LET US...
AND THUS..... HANS AXEL VON FERSEN LEFT FRANCE TO RETURN TO HIS HOMELAND
HE WOULD HAVE FOUR LONG YEARS TO WAIT BEFORE SETTING FOOT ON FRENCH SOIL AGAIN.....

The Rose of Versailles

Chapter 9



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A Lilhlicious Project
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OSCAR FRANÇOIS DE JARJAYES

Grooming

She has lovely, slightly wavy blonde hair. Incidentally, her eyes are blue. André's grandmother curls Oscar's hair every day. Oscar does take care of her skin, but doesn't wear any makeup.

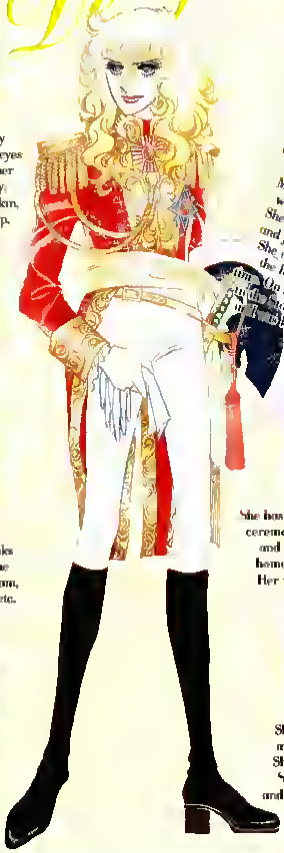
Voice

She has a husky voice that's music to the ears. She's a mezzo soprano.

Likes

In addition to alcoholic drinks such as brandy and wine, she also enjoys chocolate, ice cream, whiskey bonbons, rose jelly, etc.

Dimensions	
Height	178cm
Bust	87cm
Waist	63cm
Hips	90cm
Foot	25cm
Weight	58kg



Oscar's Life

She was born on December 25, 1755, making her the youngest daughter of the Jarjayes family. She was given the name Oscar and raised as a boy. In 1768, she entered a military academy. In 1769, she joined the Royal Guard. Two years later, she led the escort for the Dauphine Marie Antoinette. In 1775, she was promoted to Brigadier. She then left the Royal Guard and joined the French Guard. She deeply sympathized with the liberal ideology of the [illegible]. On July 14, 1789, she joined the storming of the Bastille, [illegible] by enemy fire.

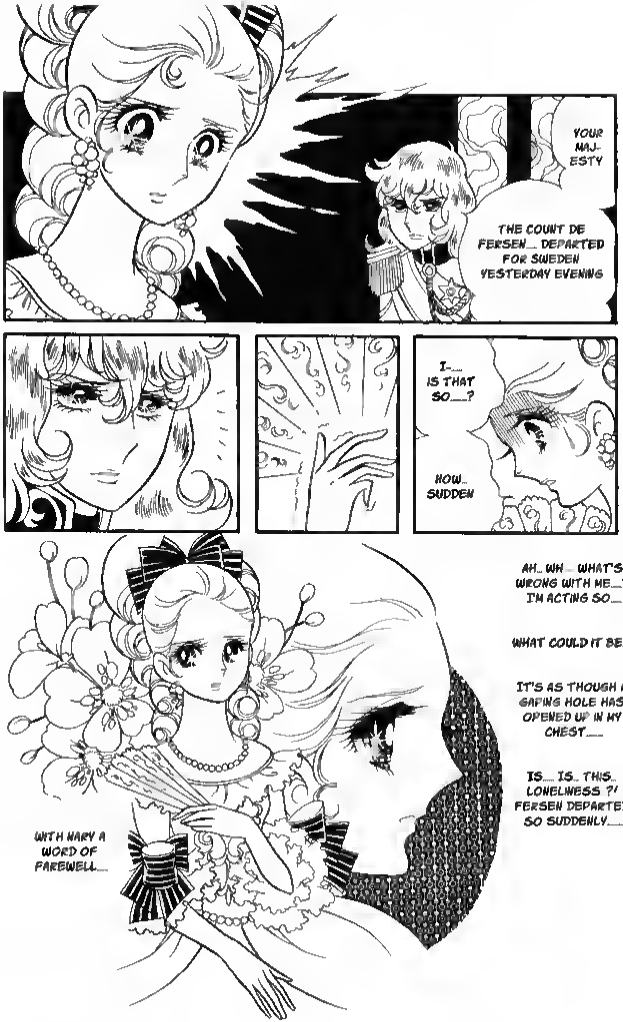
Clothing

She has quite a few military uniforms: ceremonial full dress, evening dress, and service dress. When she's at home, she usually wears blouses. Her underwear is a loose corset.

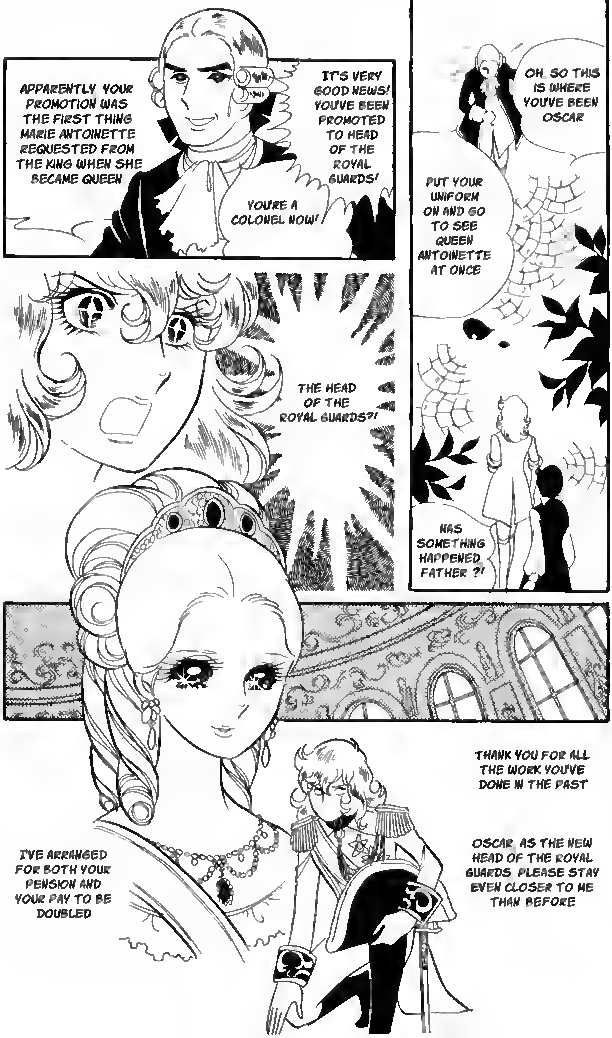
Abilities

She excels in riding, fencing, marksmanship, and the like. She's also proficient in Latin. She's so skilled at the piano and violin that she owes everyone who hears her perform.

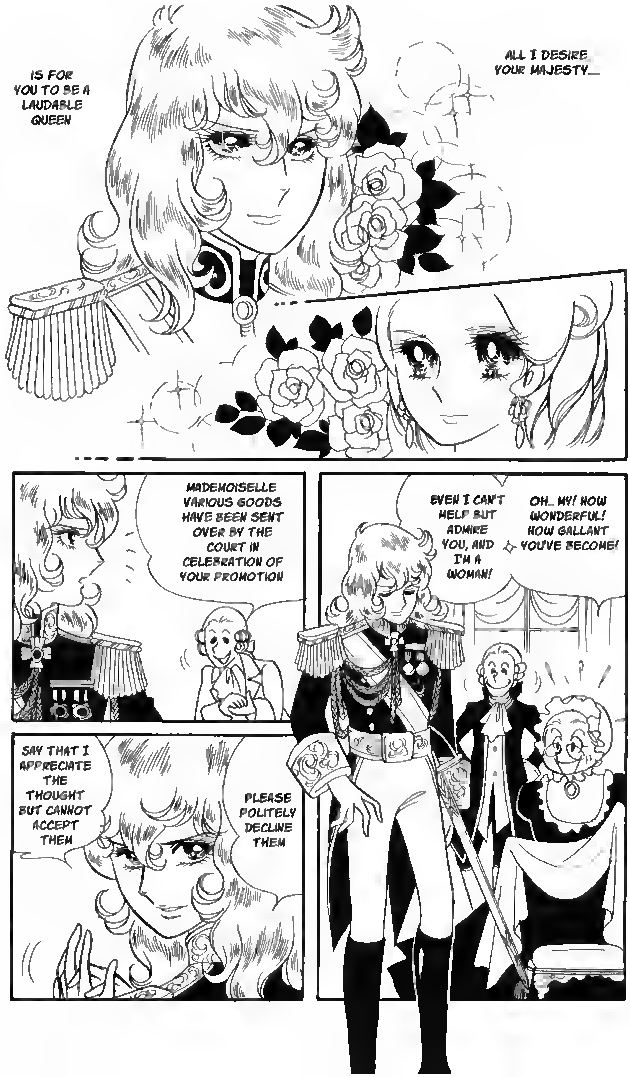
From *Berusaiyu no Bara: Sono Nana to Shinpan*.

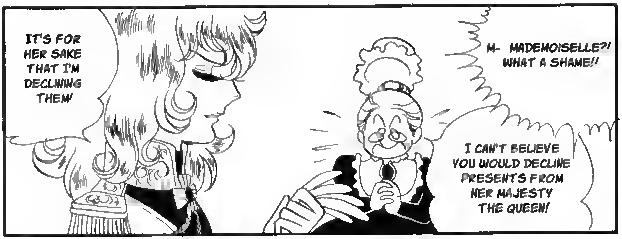

YOUR MAJESTY
THE COUNT DE FERSEN... DEPARTED FOR SWEDEN YESTERDAY EVENING
I-... IS THAT SO...?
HOW... SUDDEN
AH.. WH.. WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...? I'M ACTING SO...
WHAT COULD IT BE..?
IT'S AS THOUGH A GAPING HOLE HAS OPENED UP IN MY CHEST....
IS... IS. THIS.. LONELINESS ?/ FERSEN DEPARTED SO SUDDENLY....
WITH NARY A WORD OF FAREWELL...

CHIII.....NG!
SIGH---
SHUNK!
PANT
CLI—NK!
PANT
PANT
CLA...NG!
I'M STILL NO MATCH FOR YOU, THOUGH. RAH!
YOU'RE MUCH LIGHTER ON YOUR FEET. I JUST CAN'T COMPARE!
GIFF----
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER, ANDRÉ. I'M AFRAID TO USE REAL SWORDS IN OUR PRACTICE FIGHTS NOW
OSCAR! ARE YOU THERE OSCAR?!
OH...IT'S FATHER. HE SEEMS TO BE IN QUITE A HURRY


APPARENTLY YOUR PROMOTION WAS THE FIRST THING MARIE ANTOINETTE REQUESTED FROM THE KING WHEN SHE BECAME QUEEN
IT'S VERY GOOD NEWS! YOU'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO HEAD OF THE ROYAL GUARDS!
YOU'RE A COLONEL NOW!
OH, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN OSCAR
PUT YOUR UNIFORM ON AND GO TO SEE QUEEN ANTOINETTE AT ONCE
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED FATHER ?!
THE HEAD OF THE ROYAL GUARDS?!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST
I'VE ARRANGED FOR BOTH YOUR PENSION AND YOUR PAY TO BE DOUBLED
OSCAR, AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE ROYAL GUARDS, PLEASE STAY EVEN CLOSER TO ME THAN BEFORE

THEREFORE, I HUMBLY REQUEST THAT MY SALARY REMAIN UNCHANGED!
I CANNOT ACCEPT THE PROMOTION UNLESS THAT CONDITION IS MET!
FRANCE IS NOT ECONOMICALLY WELL-OFF AT THE MOMENT.
AND AS SUCH, AM HARDLY WORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOR
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS. THOUGH I AM NOT YET TWENTY YEARS OF AGE
HOWEVER..!
OSCAR...
AH, BUT..! IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DESIRE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!
HIGHER SOCIAL STATUS.. HORSES, SERVANTS, OR EVEN A CASTLE!!
BUT..
..I UNDERSTAND OSCAR
IN MY NEW POSITION, I'M ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES!
OH, MY BELOVED OSCAR! WHAT CAN I DO TO BRING YOU HAPPINESS?

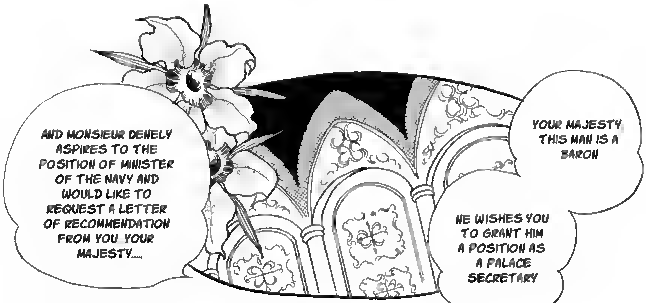

IS FOR YOU TO BE A LAUDABLE QUEEN
ALL I DESIRE YOUR MAJESTY...
MADEMOISELLE VARIOUS GOODS HAVE BEEN SENT OVER BY THE COURT IN CELEBRATION OF YOUR PROMOTION
EVEN I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE YOU, AND I'M A WOMAN!
OH... MY! HOW WONDERFUL! HOW GALLANT YOU'VE BECOME!
SAY THAT I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT BUT CANNOT ACCEPT THEM
PLEASE POLITELY DECLINE THEM

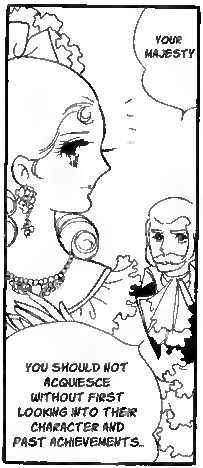

IT'S FOR HER SAKE THAT I'M DECLINING THEM!
M- MADEMOISELLE?! WHAT A SHAME!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD DECLINE PRESENTS FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN!

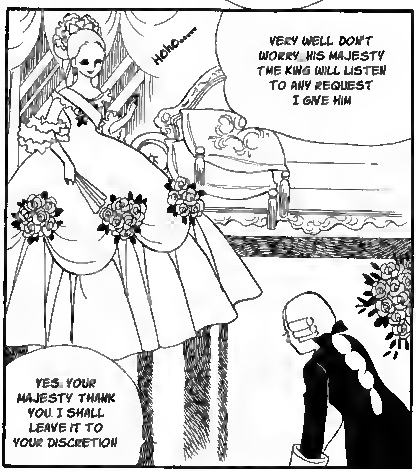
HER MAJESTY'S INDULGENCE OF HER FEELINGS FRIGHTENS ME
HOW WILL HER PEOPLE WHOSE TAXES SHE'S SPENDING COME TO VIEW HER..?

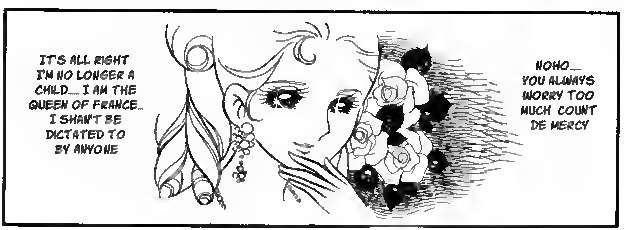
EVERYONE'S CRAZY ABOUT THE NEW QUEEN
THAT'S SILLY! YOU WORRY TOO MUCH
Haha.....
I PRAY... THAT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT...

AND AT THE MOMENT SHE SEEMS TO BE ENTHRALLED BY HER OWN POSITION AND INFLUENCE...
HER MAJESTY IS TOO INDULGENT ABOUT EXPRESSING HER FEELINGS.... SHE DOESN'T HESITATE TO OPENLY FAVOR THE PEOPLE SHE LIKES...
BUT THE MONEY THAT THE QUEEN USES COMES FROM THE PEOPLE'S TAXES...


AND MONSIEUR DENELY ASPIRES TO THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF THE NAVY AND WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.....
YOUR MAJESTY, THIS MAN IS A BARON
HE WISHES YOU TO GRANT HIM A POSITION AS A PALACE SECRETARY


YOUR MAJESTY
YOU SHOULD NOT ACQUIESCE WITHOUT FIRST LOOKING INTO THEIR CHARACTER AND PAST ACHIEVEMENTS..

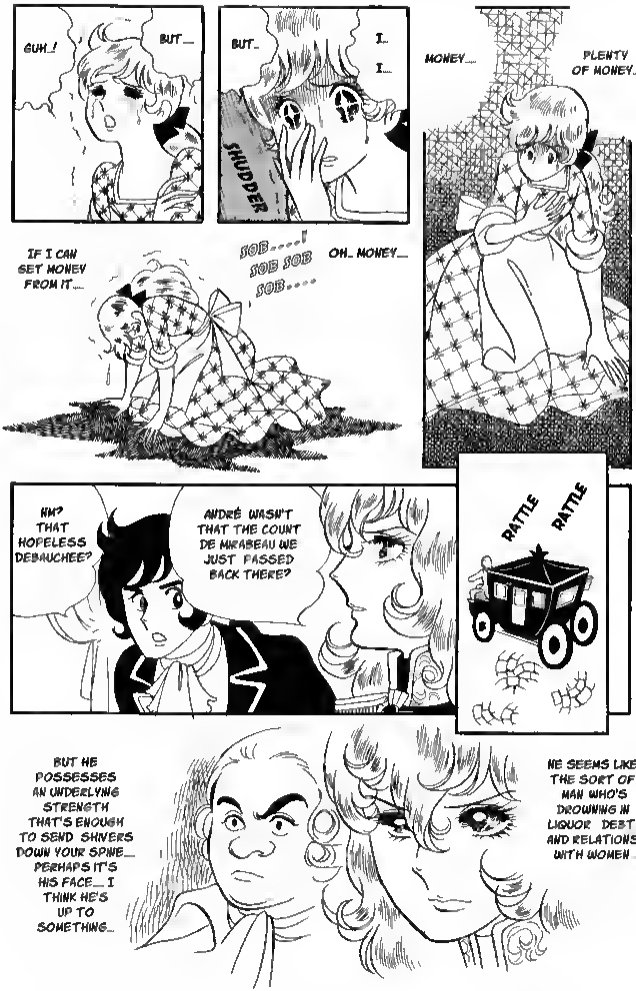

HOHO.....
VERY WELL. DON'T WORRY. HIS MAJESTY THE KING WILL LISTEN TO ANY REQUEST I GIVE HIM
YES. YOUR MAJESTY THANK YOU. I SHALL LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION


IT'S ALL RIGHT I'M NO LONGER A CHILD..... I AM THE QUEEN OF FRANCE.. I SHAN'T BE DICTATED TO BY ANYONE
HOHO.... YOU ALWAYS WORRY TOO MUCH COUNT DE MERCY

LET US CONTINUE THE PLAY WE WERE ACTING OUT BEFORE! HEAD LADY-IN-WAITING YOU'RE MEDUSA
SPARE ME! YOU'RE STILL A CHILD, ALL RIGHT YOUR MAJESTY!
squeak
squeak
WELL I HAVE COMPLETED MY TASKS
I'M BEGGING YOU I'LL PEEL POTATOES OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED
OH, NO, NO! WE ALREADY HAVE PLENTY OF HELP
IT'S WONDERFUL...! SO WONDERFUL! NOBODY ORDERS ME AROUND ANYMORE...!!
I'M FREE TO STAY OUT ALL NIGHT AT MASQUERADES. TO WATCH HORSE RACES AND OPERAS. TO BUY JEWELRY. AND TO DECIDE WHO IS TO BE A MINISTER...!

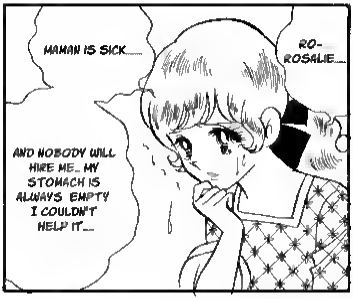
I THOUGHT A NEW AGE WAS DAWNING THAT THINGS WOULD BE A LITTLE EASIER....
BUT EVERYONE HAS STILL FALLEN ON HARD TIMES....
WAS I... TOO NAIVE..?
OH!! GIVE ME A JOB— I'LL TAKE ANYTHING!! JUST LET ME WORK...!!
I'M HUNGRY...
HIC&UP
HIC....
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING YOU...
Oji-sama!
AH!
SMA...CK!
I.. I'M SO SORRY, NOBLE SIR FORGIVE ME..

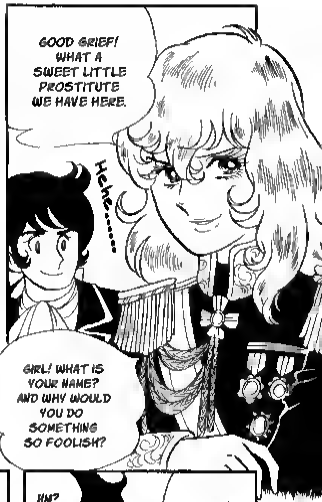
hic
OR A WHITE LILY OF THE VALLEY!
OH WHAT HAVE WE HERE..! A BLOOMING VIOLET HM?
YOU'RE QUITE A LITTLE TREASURE AREN'T YOU? THOSE RAGS DON'T DO YOU JUSTICE WANT TO COME SPEND THE NIGHT AT MY ESTATE? I'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF MONEY
HM?!
U- UM...
OUCH! YOU MAY HAVE A PRETTY FACE BUT YOU'RE REALLY A SHREW
Oh, dear
SLA...P!
P... PLEASE LET GO OF ME!!
MONSIEUR DE MIRABEAU!
OH SHE WAS NOTHING SPECIAL THE DANCER FROM BEFORE THAT WAS BETTER
PLEASE EXERCISE A BIT MORE MODERATION LAST NIGHT IT WAS THAT SINGER AT THE OPERA AND NOW...
hic....
Ouiiiii~~!
I'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF MONEY...
WANT TO COME SPEND THE NIGHT AT MY ESTATE?

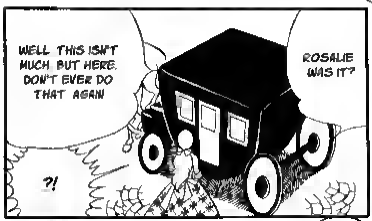

GUH..!
BUT...
BUT..
I..
I....
SHUDDER
MONEY....
PLENTY OF MONEY....
IF I CAN GET MONEY FROM IT....
SOB....!
SOB SOB
SOB....
OH.. MONEY....
HM? THAT HOPELESS DEBAUCHEE?
ANDRÉ WASN'T THAT THE COUNT DE MIRABEAU WE JUST PASSED BACK THERE?
RATTLE
RATTLE
BUT HE POSSESSES AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH THAT'S ENOUGH TO SEND SHIVERS DOWN YOUR SPINE.. PERHAPS IT'S HIS FACE... I THINK HE'S UP TO SOMETHING..
HE SEEMS LIKE THE SORT OF MAN WHO'S DROWNING IN LIQUOR DEBT AND RELATIONS WITH WOMEN..

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
U-- UM, EXCUSE ME...
PLEASE BUY ME... FOR A NIGHT..
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
UM P-- PLEASE...
PF...
HEE.. HEEHEE HEEHEE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
?!
STUPE FIED

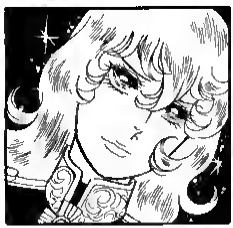
THAT JUST TAKES THE CAKE!!
AHAHAHA... HEEEEE!
AH—
HA HA. HAHAHA....
AHAHA... HAH HAH HA...
I MAY NOT LOOK IT BUT I'M A WOMAN I COULDN'T BUY YOU EVEN IF YOU WERE FREE!
HEY HEY DON'T GET ME WRONG TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT ME!
?
WAHHH...!
WAILT
WAILT
OH...!!
Guh....!
sob sob... sob...
WAHHH...

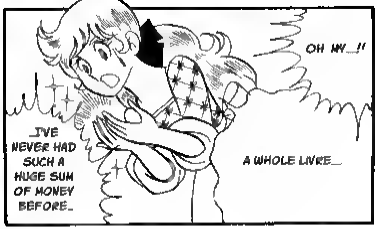

MAMAN IS SICK...
RO-ROSALIE...
AND NOBODY WILL HIRE ME.. MY STOMACH IS ALWAYS EMPTY I COULDN'T HELP IT...


GOOD GRIEF! WHAT A SWEET LITTLE PROSTITUTE WE HAVE HERE.
HEHE.....
GIRL! WHAT IS YOUR NAME? AND WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO FOOLISH?


WELL THIS ISN'T MUCH BUT HERE. DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN
ROSALIE WAS IT?
?!

HM?
ANDRÉ. COULD YOU LEND ME A LIVRE?




OH MY...!!
...I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH A HUGE SUM OF MONEY BEFORE..
A WHOLE LIVRE...

OSCAR
NM?
YOU DON'T EVEN KEEP A LIVRE ON YOU?
OH! YOUR NAME... MADAME!
RATTLE
RATTLE
I TRY NOT TO SPEND MONEY IF I DON'T NEED TO
DO YOU KNOW WHAT STATE THE COUNTRY'S FINANCES ARE IN?
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY...
IF EVEN GIRLS LIKE HER ARE...
SUCH A YOUNG GIRL...!
I NEVER KNEW...
BUT I'M GLAD OF IT!! WITH THIS MUCH...
I CAN EVEN HELP OUT THE LITTLE BOY NEXT DOOR PIERRE...
ACCEPTING CHARITY IS HARD...

I DIDN'T EVEN FIND OUT HER NAME
I'D LIKE TO SEE HER AGAIN SOMEDAY, SO I CAN THANK HER...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I HEARD SOME KID STOLE MONEY FROM A DUKE'S CARRIAGE
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER
THAT CRY...?!
COULD IT BE... YES, IT'S PIERRE...
Waaaaaaa...h!
HUH?!
IT MUST BE...!!
P-- PLEASE... O MERCIFUL DUKE!
HE'S JUST A CHILD HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND FORGIVE HIM...!
HE... HE HASN'T EATEN IN TWO DAYS... PLEASE SPARE HIM!
I BEG OF YOU!

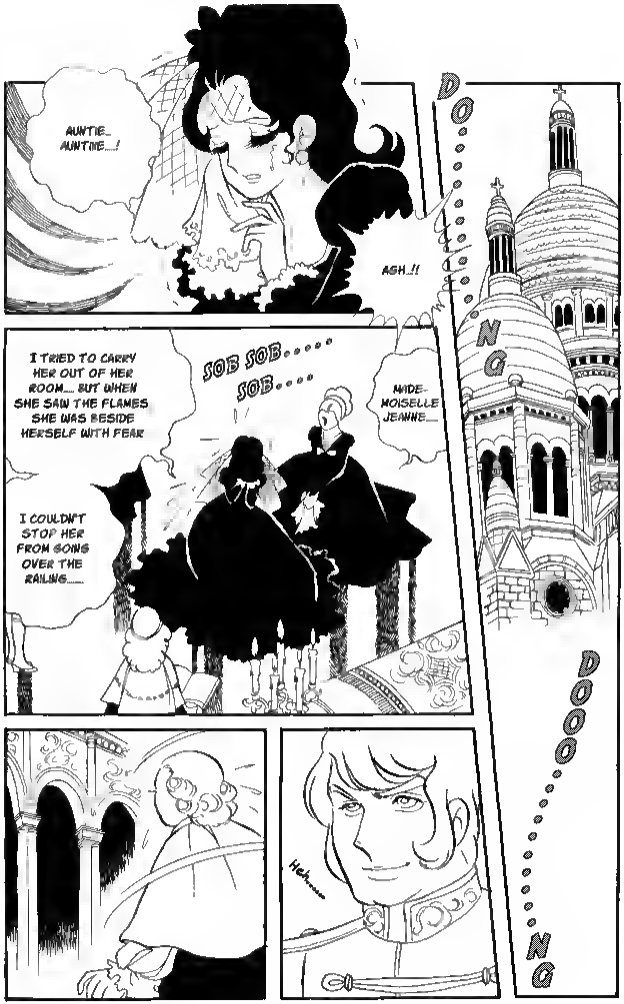
VERY WELL....
JUST GO!
Hmph.....
SMIRK
plop.....
OH.. OH!
MONSIEUR MONSIEUR!!
BAAA...
Huh.....
TIC!

gasp
....
SHRIEK
shriiieeeek....!
shriek
Hechaha....
PIERRE!!
OH..
PIERRE!!
Ah—!
WAAAAAAAAH....!!
PIERRE....!!
Hahaha.....
Wahahaha....
UNGH..!
C-..
CURSES!!
HE'S A DUKE
THERE'S NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
EVEN THE KING
CAN'T TOUCH HIM..
DON'T,
OSCAR!!
Wah hahaha...
RATTLE
RATTLE

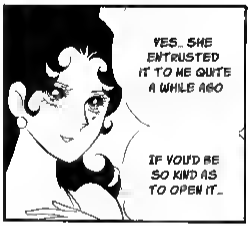
OS CAR!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO VERSAILLES ANYMORE!! WE'RE GOING HOME!!
T... TURN AROUND!!
UNNGHH...
pant
pant
YES! WE'RE NOT GOING TO VERSAILLES!! WHO'D WANT TO GO TO THAT THRICE DAMNED COURT?!
THAT NIGHT.....
THERE WAS A FIRE IN PARIS.
THEY SAY IT WAS ARSON!!
IT'S THE RESIDENCE OF THE MARQUISE DE SOULANVILLIERS. SHE'S A FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S!

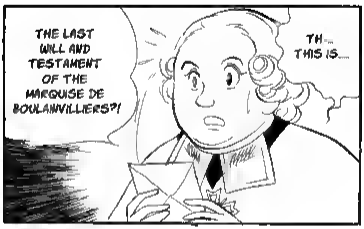
PLEASE..YOU MUST ESCAPE. QUICKLY!!
JEANNE! WHERE ARE YOU JEANNE?!
JEANNE —?
NICOLAS..?!
roaaaaar....

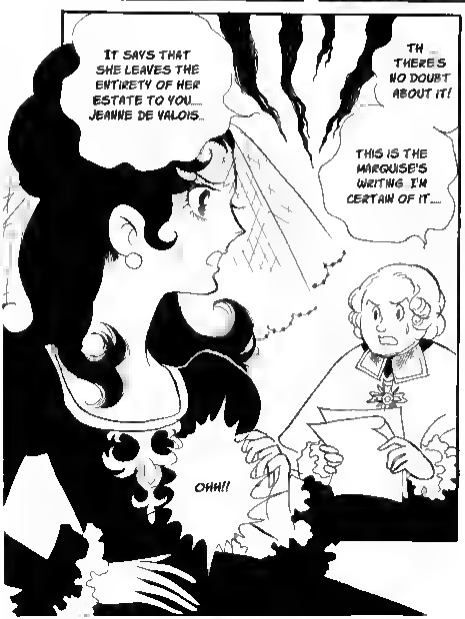
AHHHHH!
NICOLAS… JEANNE…
SHOVE…!
AHH!! WH… WHAT…?!
ST- STOP, NICOLAS!! AH… NSH…!
JEANNE!! HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES?!
HNGH…
Ungh…! Agghh.
J… JEANNE…


AUNTIE... AUNTIE...!
AGH..!!
DO.....NG
I TRIED TO CARRY HER OUT OF HER ROOM.... BUT WHEN SHE SAW THE FLAMES SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF WITH FEAR
I COULDN'T STOP HER FROM GOING OVER THE RAILING.....
SOB SOB..... SOB....
MADEMOISELLE JEANNE....
DOOO.....NG
Heh.....

ISN'T THAT THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN?
HEY, JEANNE!
YES, IT IS. TEEHEE... I INFORMED HIM OF WHAT HAPPENED
I HEARD THE MARQUISE DE BOULANVILLIERS PASSED AWAY...
M-... MY NAME IS ROHAN...
OH, MY!! CARDINAL!
WHAT?!
D-... DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A WOMANIZER HE IS?! SOME HOLY MAN! WHEN HE SEES A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
NOW COULD WE PASS UP SUCH AN EASY MARK?! I THINK IT'S A STROKE OF LUCK THAT HE WAS FRIENDS WITH THE MARQUISE!
SO? AS A CARDINAL, HE'S ONE OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING MEN IN FRANCE
OH, OH! WHAT ILL FORTUNE HAS BEFALLEN THE MARQUISE! AND SHE WAS SUCH A GOOD PERSON!
HM?
KCCCH
CARDINAL... IF I MIGHT...
I'M A DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE MARQUISE MY NAME IS JEANNE
NOW DO YOU DO, CARDINAL DE ROHAN?


YES.. SHE ENTRUSTED IT TO ME QUITE A WHILE AGO
IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO OPEN IT..


THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE MARQUISE DE BOULANVILLIERS?!
TH... THIS IS.....


IT SAYS THAT SHE LEAVES THE ENTIRETY OF HER ESTATE TO YOU..... JEANNE DE VALOIS..
TH THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
THIS IS THE MARQUISE'S WRITING I'M CERTAIN OF IT.....
OHH!!

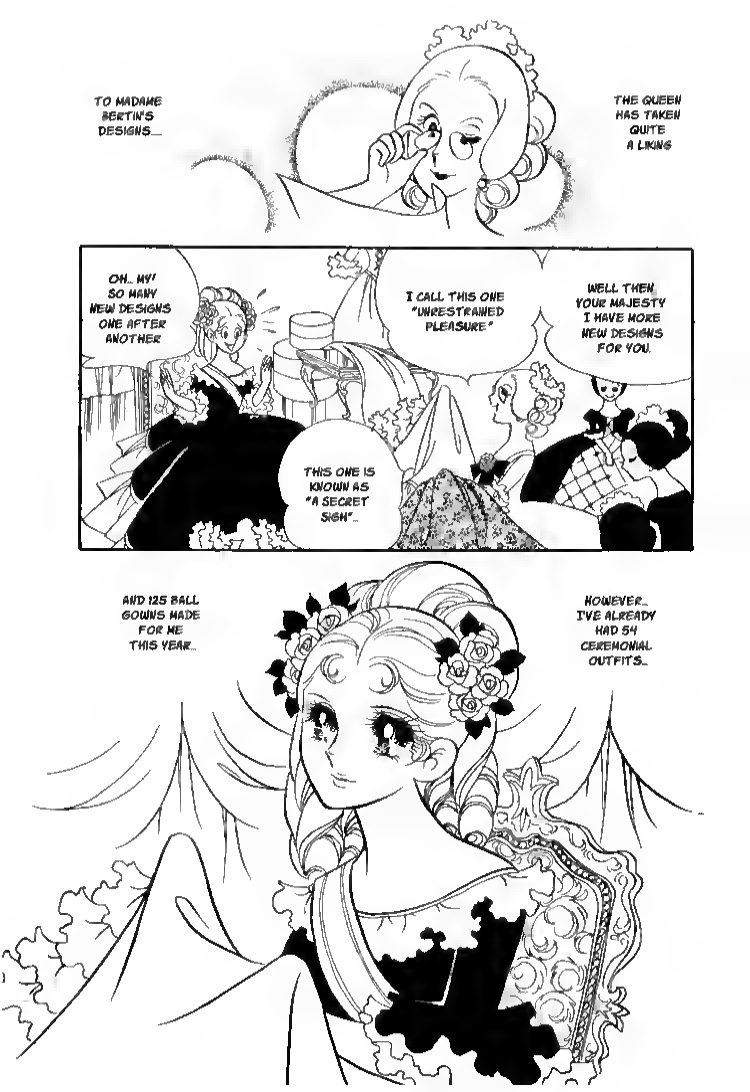
Hmm...

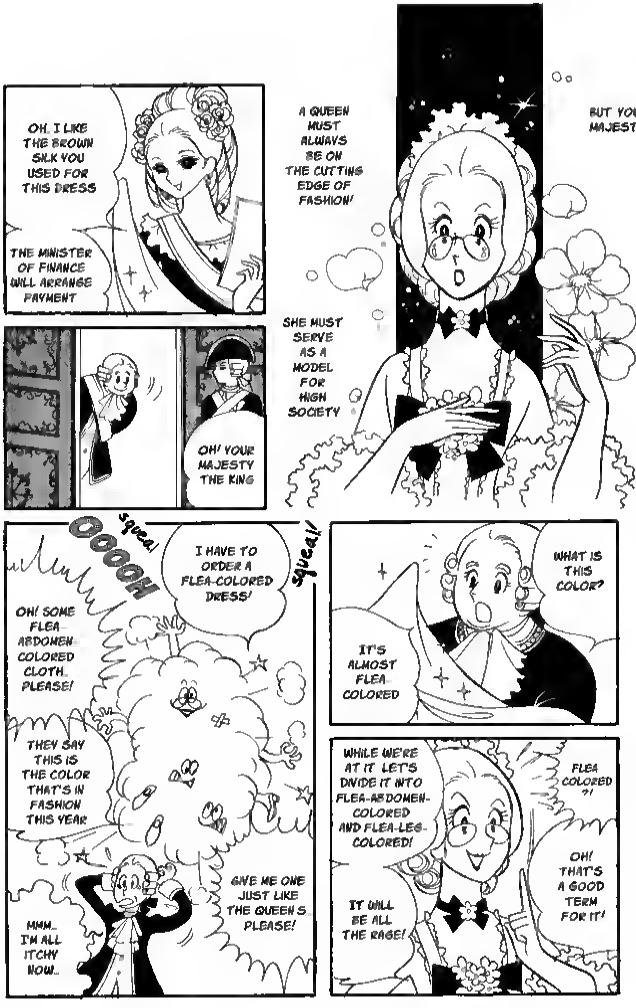
THEY'RE SAYING SHE'S DESCENDED FROM THE HOUSE OF VALOIS AND THAT HER NAME'S JEANNE OR SOMETHING...
A DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE WOMAN WHO PASSED AWAY
WHO'S THAT?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?
SO I'VE NEVER SEEN HER AT THE PALACE
NO...
THE MARQUISE DE BOULAINVILLIERS HADN'T BEEN GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE QUEEN YET...
HE USED TO BE AN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA
THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN?!
BUT LOOK AT WHO SHE'S TALKING WITH...
THAT'S THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN.

HE RETURNED TO FRANCE RECENTLY AFTER BEING REMOVED FROM HIS POST
BUT BECAUSE HE MADE NO SECRET OF HIS DEBAUCHERY QUEEN ANTOINETTE'S MOTHER...EMPRESS MARIA THERESA, DETESTED HIM...
AN UNKNOWN WOMAN WITH FIRE IN HER EYES...
IF SHE WERE TRULY A DESCENDANT OF THE HOUSE OF VALOIS...
Pah!
SHE WOULD BE A MARQUISE NOW--AT THE VERY LEAST--AND WOULD RESIDE HERE IN THE PALACE AT VERSAILLES.
...I SENSE TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON...
AND THE CORRUPT CARDINAL DE ROHAN, THE HIGHEST-RANKING HOLY MAN IN FRANCE...

OH MY! MONSIEUR OSCAR!
HE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM THE PALACE OF LATE.
I HEARD HE'S BEEN PROMOTED TO COLONEL!
OSCAR!
YOUR MAJESTY
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! YOU'VE BEEN ABSENT FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU EVERY DAY
HAS SOMETHING DISPLEASED YOU?

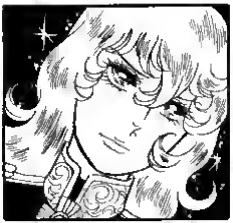
YOUR MAJESTY! ROSE BERTIN HAS ARRIVED
OH! SH-- SHH!
Well!! Hmmmm.
Cough....
OH MY! MADAME BERTIN?! OOOOOH!! SEND HER TO MY ROOMS AT ONCE!
HEHE.... OSCAR GETS INTO CHILDISH SHITS SOMETIMES...
MINCE
MINCE
FILE IN
FILE IN
SHE'S BEGUN PAYING REGULAR VISITS TO THE PALACE LATELY...
SHE'S A DESIGNER WITH A DRESSMAKING SHOP IN PARIS.
GAPE
GAPE
WH... WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD?!


TO MADAME BERTIN'S DESIGNS...
THE QUEEN HAS TAKEN QUITE A LIKING
OH.. MY! SO MANY NEW DESIGNS ONE AFTER ANOTHER
I CALL THIS ONE "UNRESTRAINED PLEASURE"
WELL THEN, YOUR MAJESTY I HAVE MORE NEW DESIGNS FOR YOU.
THIS ONE IS KNOWN AS "A SECRET SIGH"...
AND 125 BALL GOWNS MADE FOR ME THIS YEAR...
HOWEVER... I'VE ALREADY HAD 54 CEREMONIAL OUTFITS...


OH, I LIKE THE BROWN SILK YOU USED FOR THIS DRESS
THE MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL ARRANGE PAYMENT
A QUEEN MUST ALWAYS BE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF FASHION!
BUT YOUR MAJESTY,
SHE MUST SERVE AS A MODEL FOR HIGH SOCIETY
OH! YOUR MAJESTY THE KING
squeal
OOOOH
I HAVE TO ORDER A FLEA-COLORED DRESS!
squeal!
OH! SOME FLEA-ABDOMEN-COLORED CLOTH, PLEASE!
THEY SAY THIS IS THE COLOR THAT'S IN FASHION THIS YEAR
MMM... I'M ALL ITCHY NOW...
GIVE ME ONE JUST LIKE THE QUEEN'S, PLEASE!
WHAT IS THIS COLOR?
IT'S ALMOST FLEA-COLORED
WHILE WE'RE AT IT LET'S DIVIDE IT INTO FLEA-ABDOMEN-COLORED AND FLEA-LEG-COLORED!
IT WILL BE ALL THE RAGE!
FLEA COLORED ?!
OH! THAT'S A GOOD TERM FOR IT!

The Rose of Versailles

Chapter 10



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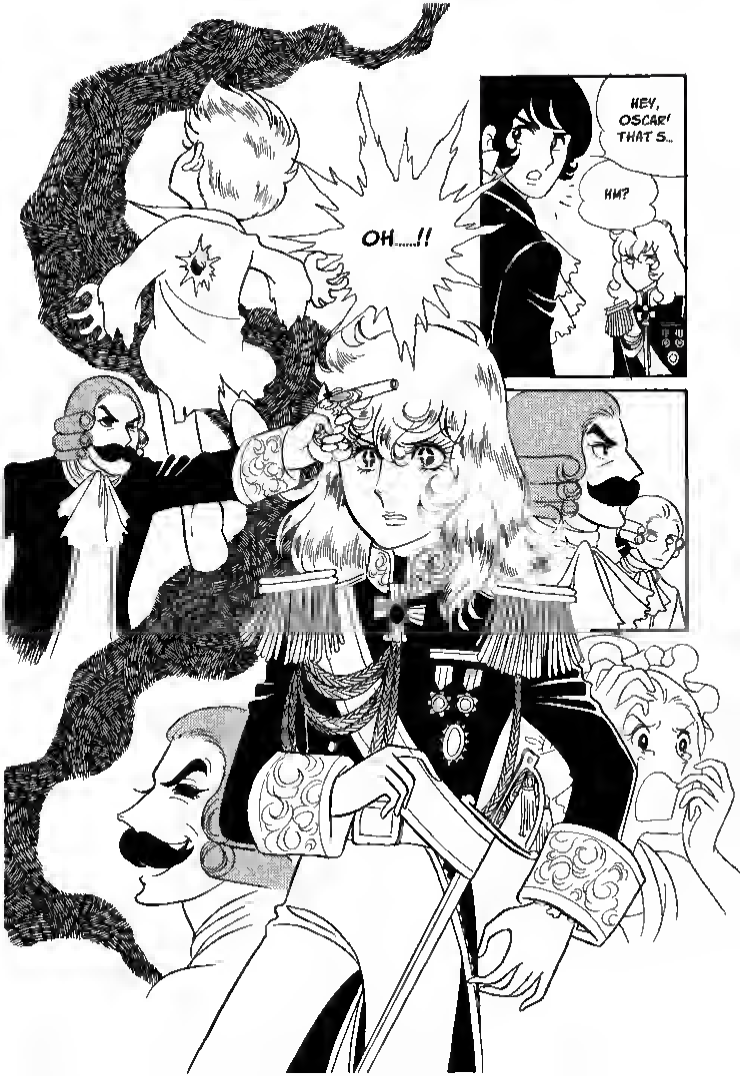
OHOHOH!
...YOU SEE HOW IT IS
THE QUEEN IS ENTHRALLED BY MADAME BERTIN'S DRESSES
ARE THE OSTRICH FEATHERS TO YOUR LIKING?
YES! I LOVE THEM
YOU'RE AMAZING!
THESE FEATHERS ARE VERY COSTLY
IF OTHER LADIES WISH TO IMITATE YOU, THEY'LL FIND THEM DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN
I WAS ABLE TO MAKE THIS FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE THE QUEEN

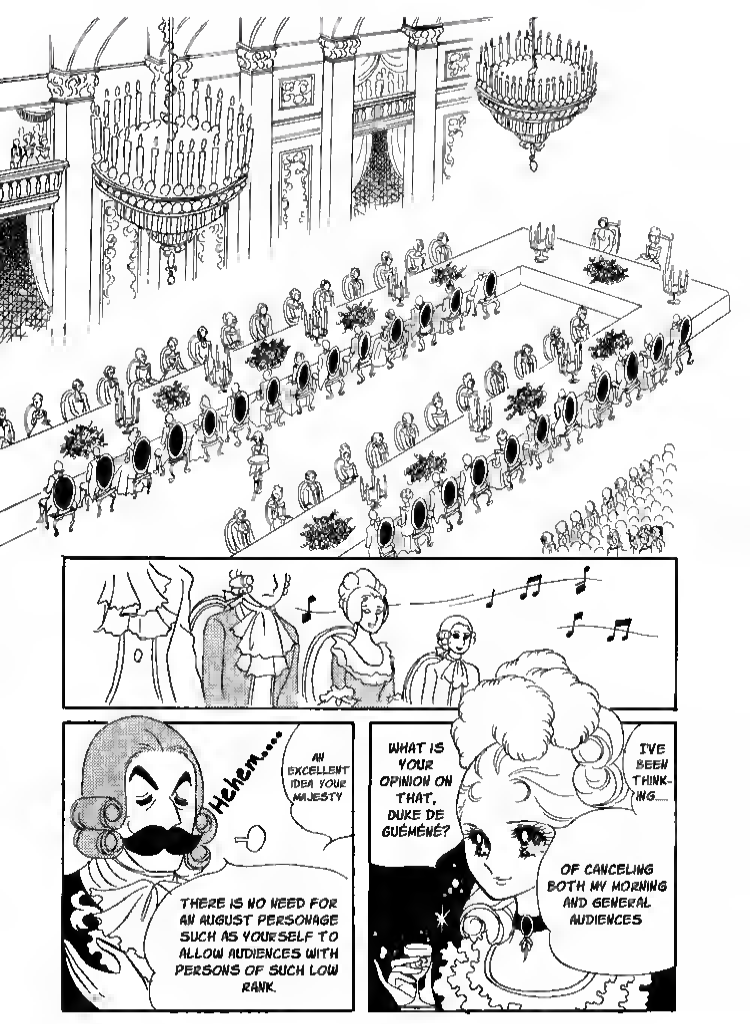
THE FAIRY ROSE OF VERSAILLES... THE QUEEN OF ROCOCO... THESE WHISPERS FROM THE NOBLES AT COURT INTOXICATE ME...
YOU SEEM HAPPY MARIE ANTOINETTE YOUR BEAUTY CONTINUES TO GROW..!
AND YET... THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING WHAT COULD IT BE..?
VIENNA, AUSTRIA...
MY WORD! SURELY THERE HAS BEEN SOME MISTAKE!
THIS IS NO ROYAL PORTRAIT—I SEE ONLY AN ACTRESS DECKED OUT LIKE A STRUMPET!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
THIS IS THE PORTRAIT FROM FRANCE?!

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT'S MY DAUGHTER IN THAT SILLY, GARISH FINERY!
AH..!
MY DEAR MARIE... DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
SEND IT BACK TO FRANCE THIS INSTANT!
A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN.... MUCH LESS A QUEEN WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF REFINEMENT AND CHARM.....
HAS NO NEED FOR SUCH GAUDY ACCOUTREMENTS..!
ON THE CONTRARY IT IS MODEST...REFINED CLOTHING THAT WILL ACCENTUATE HER ELEGANCE!
DOES SHE REALIZE EXACTLY HOW MUCH OF THE PEOPLE'S TAXES SHE'S SPENDING..?
SHE'S BESOTTED WITH EXTRAVAGANT JEWELS AND FEATHERS..

squeal squeal
HOHO... I HAD MY HUSBAND SELL OUR RURAL HOLDINGS TO BUY THEM
OH.. MY! YOUR FEATHERS ARE JUST LIKE THE QUEEN'S! THEY'RE MARVELOUS.
Hohohoho...
I HAD MINE BUY ME A DIAMOND BRACELET JUST LIKE THE QUEEN HAD ON THE OTHER DAY TEEHEE. WE ARE IN DEBT NOW. THOUGH!
OH, DEAR! AND MARQUIS XX FLED IN THE NIGHT TO ESCAPE HIS CREDITORS!
OH.. MY WORD! YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
I HEARD THAT MADAME OO QUARRELS WITH HER HUSBAND ALL THE TIME NOW BECAUSE OF THEIR DEBTS..
GOODNESS?!
AT THIS RATE, HER MAJESTY IS GOING TO BANKRUPT EVERY LADY IN FRANCE!
HAHAHA
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? THE WHOLE COURT'S GONE CRAZY
I WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL LIKE HER MAJESTY MARIE ANTOINETTE ...
I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE HER MAJESTY MARIE ANTOINETTE...
...LIKE HER MAJESTY MARIE ANTOINETTE
...LIKE HER MAJESTY MARIE ANTOINETTE

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER, ANDRÉ!
WILL THOSE ATTENDING PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY THERE..?
THEIR MAJESTIES' DINNER PARTY IN THE PALACE OPERA HALL WILL NOW COMMENCE.
ALL OFFICERS OF RANK COLONEL AND ABOVE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE I'M SURE MY FATHER WILL BE THERE
I GUESS I'LL GO WATCH WITH THE OTHER NOBLES, AS USUAL
I HAVE NO CHOICE I WAS INVITED
ARE YOU GOING, OSCAR?


HEY, OSCAR! THAT'S..
HM?
OH.....!!


I'VE BEEN THINKING...
OF CANCELING BOTH MY MORNING AND GENERAL AUDIENCES
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THAT, DUKE DE GUÉMÉNÉ?
AN EXCELLENT IDEA YOUR MAJESTY
Hehem...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR AN AUGUST PERSONAGE SUCH AS YOURSELF TO ALLOW AUDIENCES WITH PERSONS OF SUCH LOW RANK.

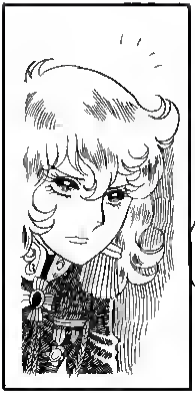
BUT..!
YES, YOU THINK SO?
WHAT IS IT, OSCAR? GO AHEAD
WITH ALL DUE RE-SPECT ....
HOLDING AUDIENCES IS PART OF A KING AND QUEEN'S DUTY
IN SPEAKING TO THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED GREAT DISTANCES TO SEE YOU
YOU DEEPEN EVERYONE'S UNDER STANDING AND LOVE OF YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.....
AND GAIN INFORMATION ON THE AREAS OUTSIDE THE COURT AND ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE

THE ONLY MATURE THING ABOUT THAT LITTLE UPSTART IS HER MOUTH... SHE KNOWS HOW TO BACK UP AN ARGUMENT!
HMPH!
grin grin
HEHE... NICELY SAID, OSCAR
Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
IT'S COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS! WAH HAH HAH.
HAH HAH HAH...
SHE MAY BE SOME GENERAL'S DAUGHTER OR SOMESUCH...
BUT A FEMALE COLONEL?
OH?

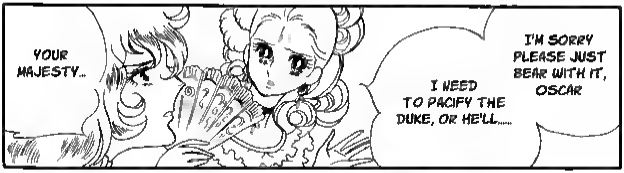
A MAN WHO COULD TRICK AN INNOCENT CHILD, TOO YOUNG TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG,
AND SHOOT HIM IN THE BACK WITH A PISTOL IS AN ESTEEMED DUKE?
HAHAHA...
NOW, THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WAH HAH HAH...
HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES, OSCAR?!
OH... OH... OH, Y YOU IDIOT IDIOT!
Ra!!
Ra!!
CRA...SH

I...I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL, YOU...YOU ARROGANT LITTLE UPSTART!!
OH!
SHRIEK
FINE! I ACCEPT!
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
OH
SHRIEK
M-..M-.. MONSIEUR DE JARJAYES!! PLEASE STOP THEM!
DON'T WORRY IVE TRAINED HER WELL IN BOTH FENCING AND SHOOTING
NO HEIR OF MINE IS GOING TO DIE IN A DUEL
SNIRK...
GULP

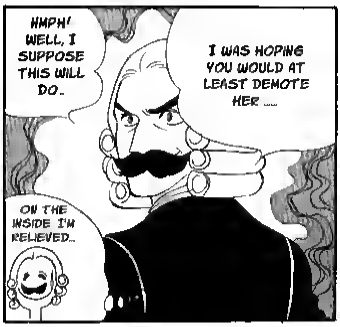
Y--YOU MUSTN'T!! THIS IS FOOLISH...
DUKE DE GUÉMÉNÉ, PLEASE CALM YOURSELF. OSCAR IS STILL YOUNG FORGIVE HER...
NO, YOUR MAJESTY! SHE HAS INSULTED MY GREAT LINEAGE
EVEN THE FOLLY OF YOUTH CANNOT EXCUSE THAT!
IF I DO NOT ACT, MY FAMILY WILL BECOME AN OBJECT OF RIDICULE!!
I WILL NOT ALLOW A DUEL!!
O-OSCAR FRANÇOIS
DE JARJAYES!
YOUR MAJESTY!

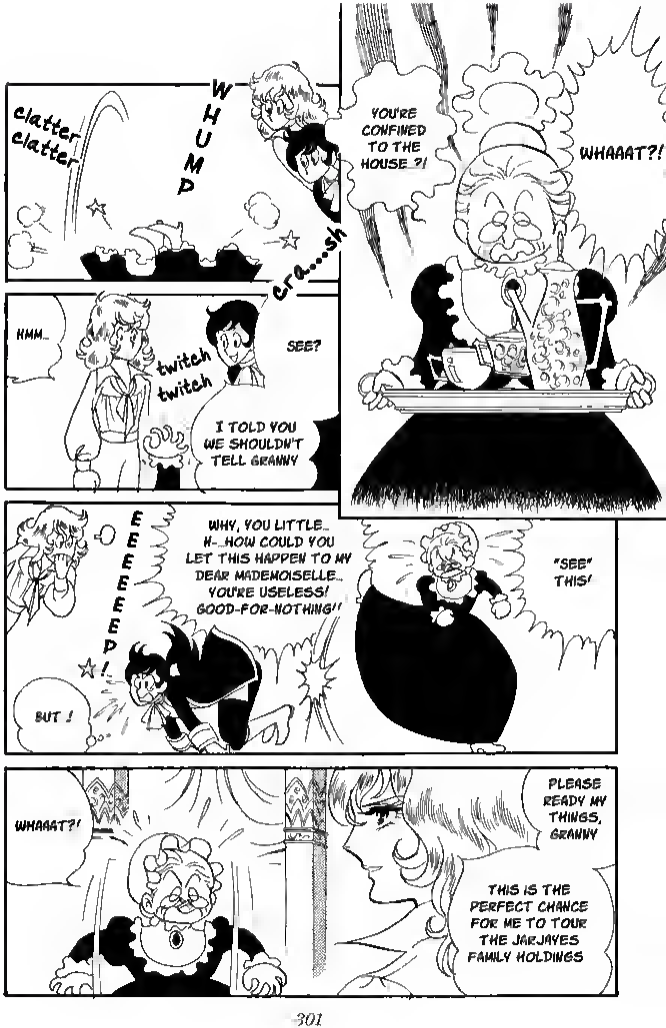


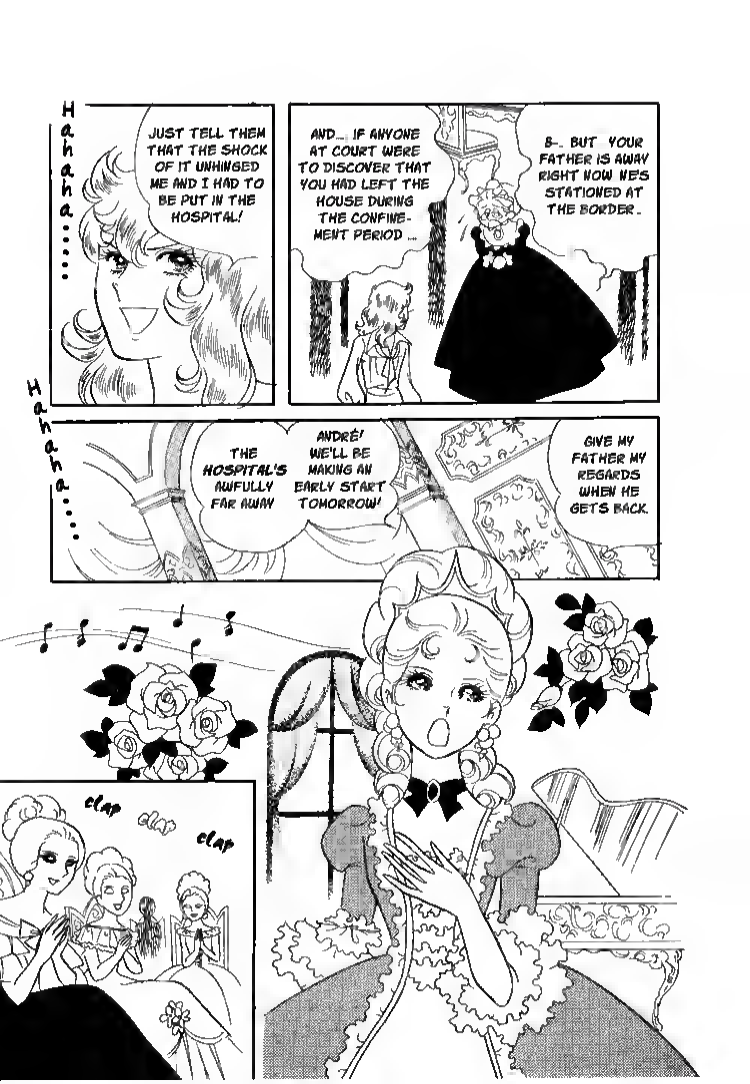
YOU ARE HEREBY CONFINED TO YOUR HOME!
YOU MAY NOT APPEAR AT COURT FOR ONE MONTH!

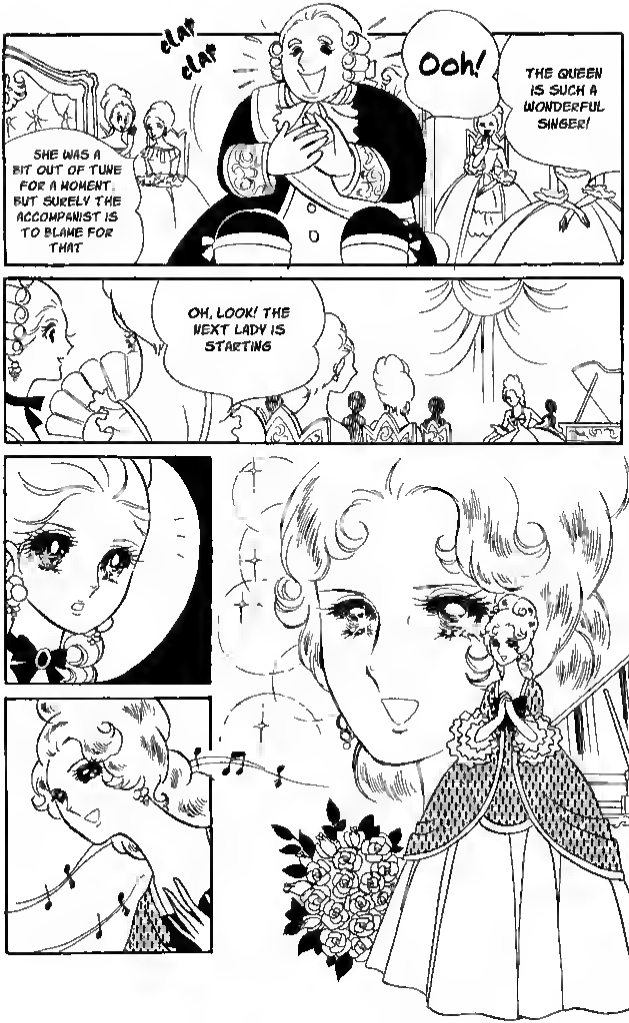

YOUR MAJESTY..
I NEED TO PACIFY THE DUKE, OR HE'LL.....
I'M SORRY PLEASE JUST BEAR WITH IT, OSCAR

HAHA DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, ANDRÉ
OSCAR..
JUST THINK OF IT AS AN UNEXPECTED VACATION


HMPH! WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS WILL DO..
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD AT LEAST DEMOTE HER .....
ON THE INSIDE I'M RELIEVED..

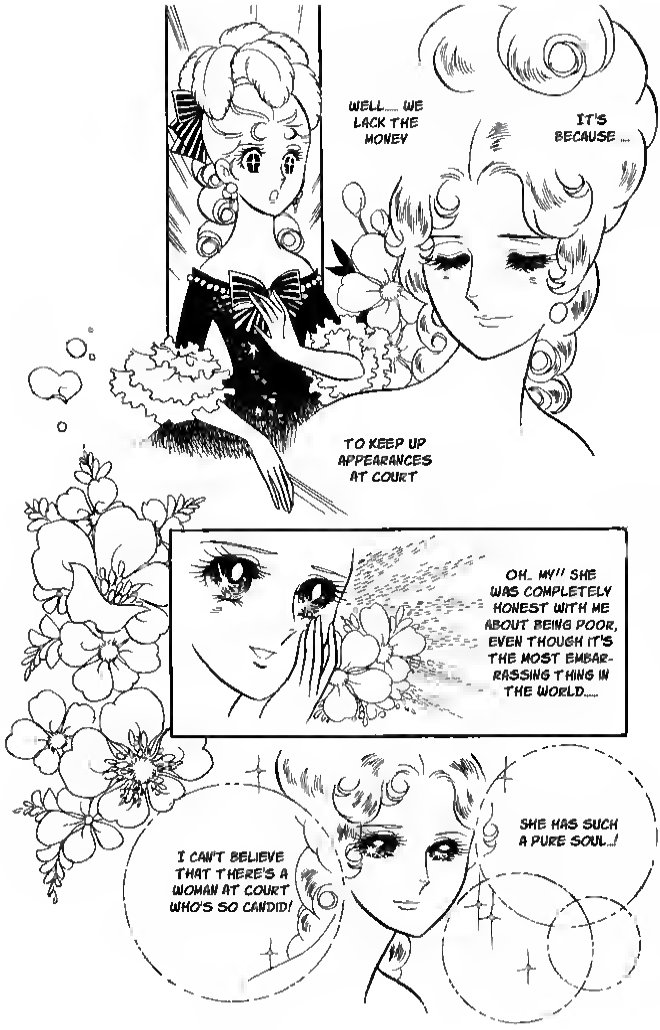

clatter clatter
WHUMP
cra...sh
YOU'RE CONFINED TO THE HOUSE ?!
WHAAAT?!
HMM...
twitch twitch
SEE?
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T TELL GRANNY
EEEEEEP!
WHY, YOU LITTLE... H-...HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN TO MY DEAR MADEMOISELLE.. YOU'RE USELESS! GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!!
"SEE" THIS!
BUT !
WHAAAT?!
PLEASE READY MY THINGS, GRANNY
THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR ME TO TOUR THE JARJAYES FAMILY HOLDINGS

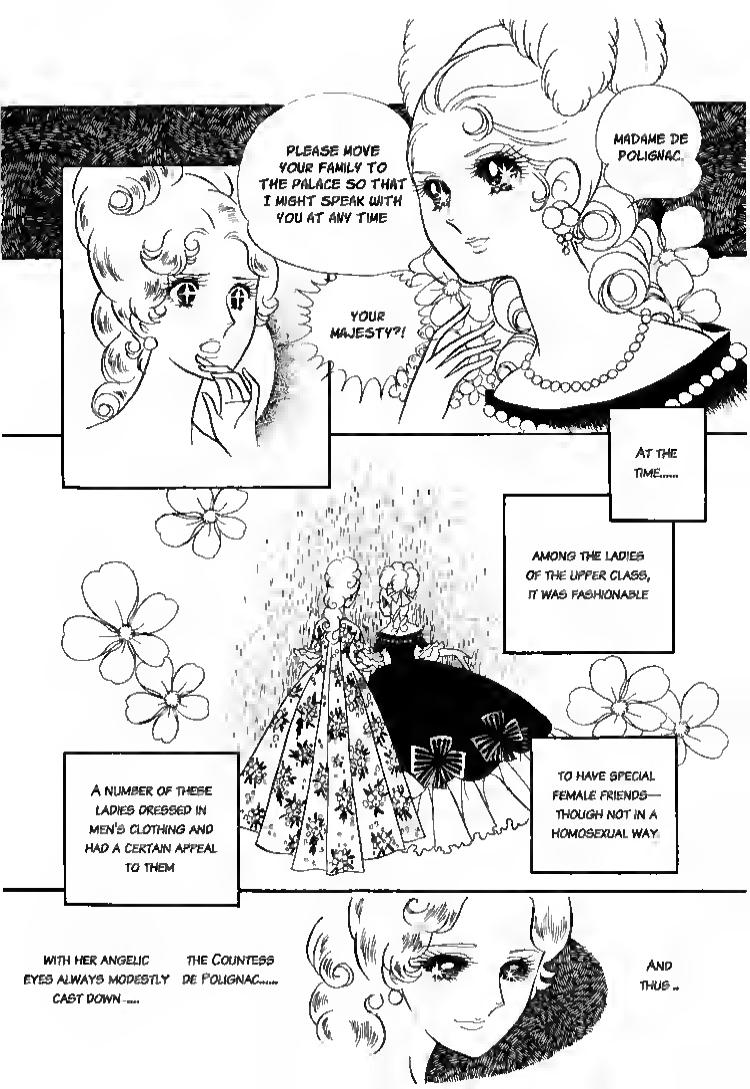

Hahaha.....
JUST TELL THEM THAT THE SHOCK OF IT UNHINGED ME AND I HAD TO BE PUT IN THE HOSPITAL!
AND... IF ANYONE AT COURT WERE TO DISCOVER THAT YOU HAD LEFT THE HOUSE DURING THE CONFINEMENT PERIOD ...
B-.. BUT YOUR FATHER IS AWAY RIGHT NOW HE'S STATIONED AT THE BORDER..
Hahaha.....
THE HOSPITAL'S AWFULLY FAR AWAY
ANDRÉ! WE'LL BE MAKING AN EARLY START TOMORROW!
GIVE MY FATHER MY REGARDS WHEN HE GETS BACK.
clap
clap
clap

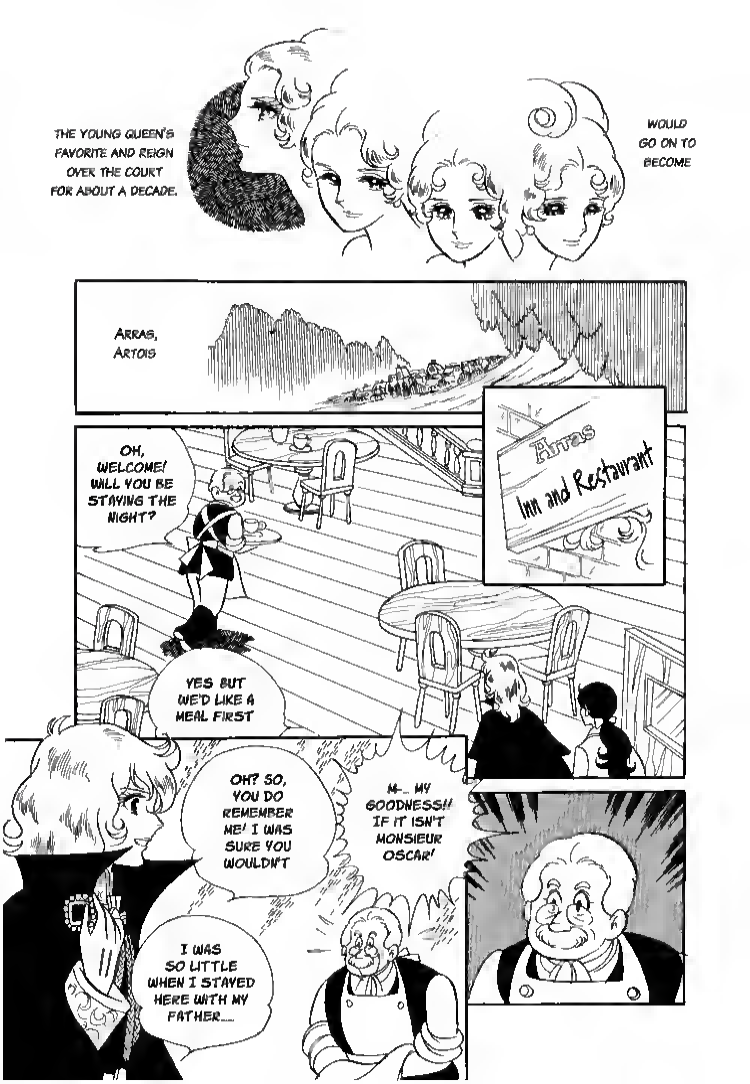

clap
clap
Ooh!
THE QUEEN IS SUCH A WONDERFUL SINGER!
SHE WAS A BIT OUT OF TUNE FOR A MOMENT, BUT SURELY THE ACCOMPANIST IS TO BLAME FOR THAT
OH, LOOK! THE NEXT LADY IS STARTING

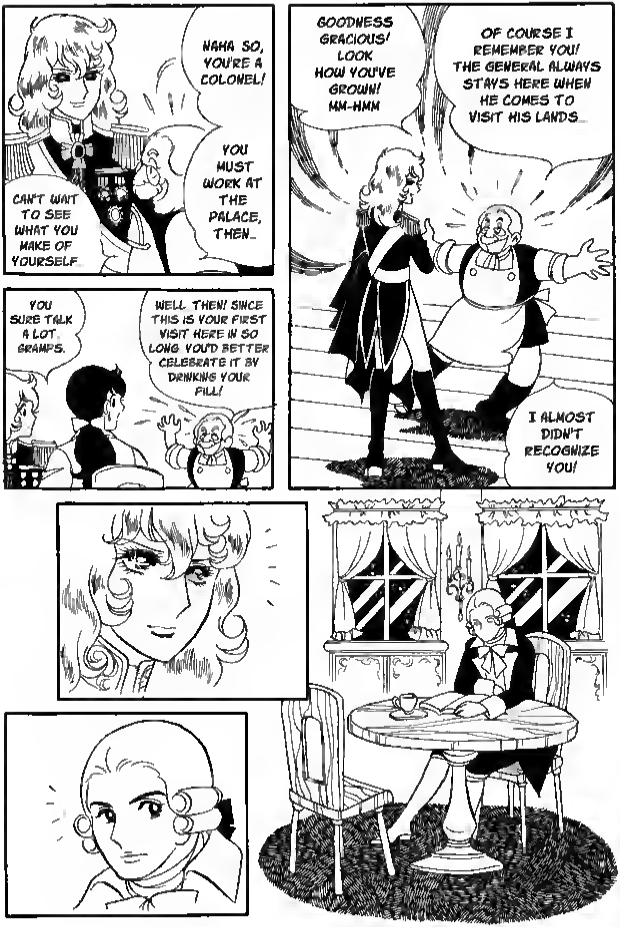
MADAME DE NOAILLES, WHO IS THAT LADY?
SHE IS THE WIFE OF COUNT JULES DE POLIGNAC.
HOHO.. SHE'S AS KIND AS AN ANGEL..IS SHE NOT?
SHE HAS THE MODEST TENDERNESS OF A RAPHAEL PAINTING..
HAS SUCH A GENTLE VOICE!
OH.. MY! SHE..
SHE SEEMS TO BE QUITE A BIT OLDER THAN ME, BUT.....
SHE BRINGS TO MIND A QUIET BOWER.....
THE COUNTESS DE POLIGNAC --
glance
glance

OH.....
HOW DO YOU DO, MADAME DE POLIGNAC?
OH, MY! YOUR MAJESTY...
I'VE WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A WHILE NOW
WHY DO YOU COME TO THE COURT SO INFREQUENTLY?
YOUR MAJESTY.....


WELL... WE LACK THE MONEY
IT'S BECAUSE ...
TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES AT COURT
OH.. MY!! SHE WAS COMPLETELY HONEST WITH ME ABOUT BEING POOR, EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING IN THE WORLD.....
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE'S A WOMAN AT COURT WHO'S SO CANDID!
SHE HAS SUCH A PURE SOUL..!


PLEASE MOVE YOUR FAMILY TO THE PALACE SO THAT I MIGHT SPEAK WITH YOU AT ANY TIME
MADAME DE POLIGNAC.
YOUR MAJESTY?!
AT THE TIME.....
AMONG THE LADIES OF THE UPPER CLASS, IT WAS FASHIONABLE
A NUMBER OF THESE LADIES DRESSED IN MEN'S CLOTHING AND HAD A CERTAIN APPEAL TO THEM
TO HAVE SPECIAL FEMALE FRIENDS— THOUGH NOT IN A HOMOSEXUAL WAY.
WITH HER ANGELIC EYES ALWAYS MODESTLY CAST DOWN.....
THE COUNTESS DE POLIGNAC.....
AND THUS ..


THE YOUNG QUEEN'S FAVORITE AND REIGN OVER THE COURT FOR ABOUT A DECADE.
WOULD GO ON TO BECOME
ARRAS, ARTOIS
Arras Inn and Restaurant
OH, WELCOME! WILL YOU BE STAYING THE NIGHT?
YES BUT WE'D LIKE A MEAL FIRST
M-_ MY GOODNESS!! IF IT ISN'T MONSIEUR OSCAR!
OH? SO, YOU DO REMEMBER ME! I WAS SURE YOU WOULDN'T
I WAS SO LITTLE WHEN I STAYED HERE WITH MY FATHER.....


NAHA SO, YOU'RE A COLONEL!
YOU MUST WORK AT THE PALACE, THEN...
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU MAKE OF YOURSELF
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! LOOK HOW YOU'VE GROWN! MM-HMM
OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU! THE GENERAL ALWAYS STAYS HERE WHEN HE COMES TO VISIT HIS LANDS...
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
YOU SURE TALK A LOT, GRAMPS.
WELL, THEN! SINCE THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT HERE IN SO LONG, YOU'D BETTER CELEBRATE IT BY DRINKING YOUR FILL!

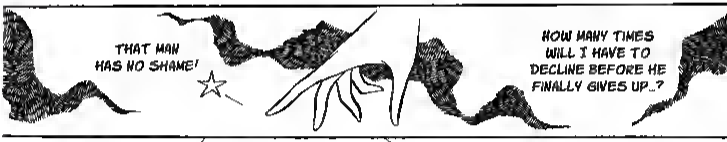
I'M MAXIMILIEN DE ROBESPIERRE
YOU REMEMBER ME? YOU'RE TOO KIND
THE ONE WHO PERFORMED A CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS... AT THE LYCÉE LOUIS LE-GRAND ON THE DAY OF LOUIS XVI'S CORONATION...?
AREN'T... YOU...
I'M OSCAR FRANÇOIS DE JARJAYES
AND YOU'RE ONE OF THE ROYAL GUARDS FROM THE KING'S PROCESSION AREN'T YOU? YOU WERE THE PRETTIEST ONE THERE—I REMEMBER YOU WELL.
TO BE HONEST...
I DO REGRET GIVING THAT CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS A BIT
I'M FROM ARRAS SO I COME BACK TO VISIT ONCE IN A WHILE.
I'M STUDYING LAW I PLAN TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY AND BECOME A LAWYER SOMEDAY...
AND THE NEW KING HOWEVER...
I DID HAVE HOPES FOR THE NEW ERA...

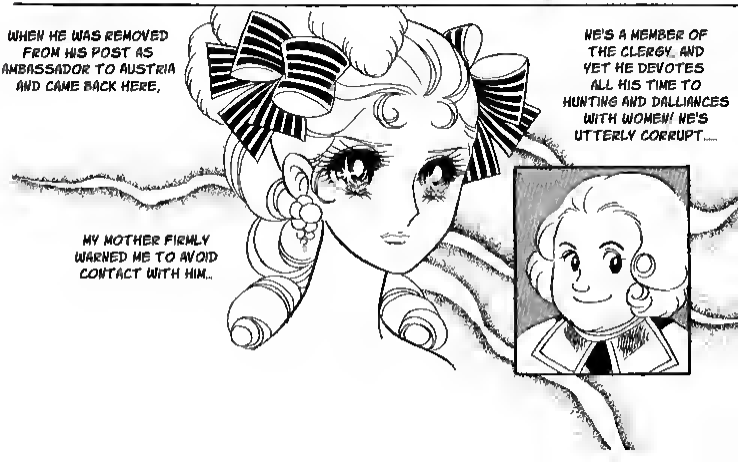
SOME SAY THE NEW QUEEN IS QUITE THE PLEASURE-SEEKER.... AND SHE HAS THE KING IN THE PALM OF HER HAND....
OUR LIVES HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT..... AND THE COST OF LIVING IS RISING WITH EACH NEW DAY...
IT COMPLETELY SLIPPED MY MIND THAT YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL GUARDS
MONSIEUR DE JARJAYES PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF I HAVE OFFENDED YOU
CRA....SH!
THERE'S A "DE" IN HIS NAME..BUT IS HE REALLY A NOBLE?
HE MEANS WELL.. HE'S JUST TOO BLUNT..

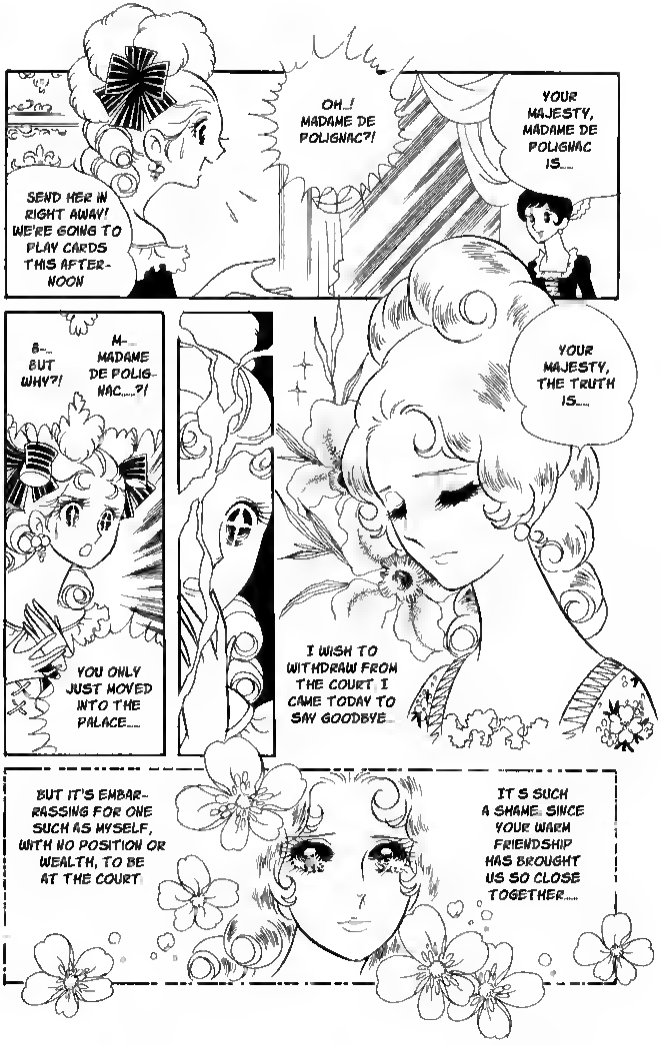
YOUR MAJESTY,
THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN IS REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU AGAIN.
HE'S QUITE POPULAR HERE IN TOWN
HE GIVES FREE ADVICE ON LEGAL MATTERS TO THE POOR AND UNEDUCATED.
NO. HE'S A COMMONER BUT HE COMES FROM A LINE OF LAWYERS. THEY'VE CALLED THEMSELVES "DE ROBESPIERRE" FOR MANY YEARS
ROBESPIERRE SPOKE THE TRUTH
MONSIEUR!
EVERYONE... IS GRADUALLY LOSING FAITH IN THE NEW KING AND QUEEN

I WILL NEVER GRANT THAT MAN AN AUDIENCE I SHAN'T SPEAK EVEN A SINGLE WORD TO HIM!
PLEASE CONVEY THAT MESSAGE TO HIM.
YES YOUR MAJESTY

THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN?!


THAT MAN HAS NO SHAME!
HOW MANY TIMES WILL I HAVE TO DECLINE BEFORE HE FINALLY GIVES UP..?

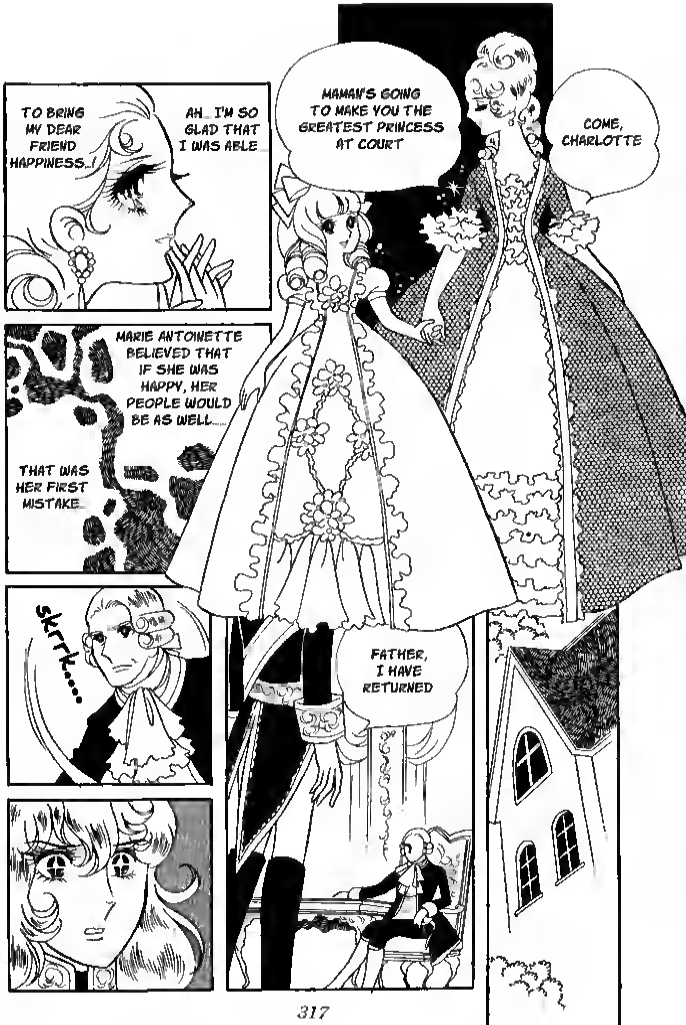

WHEN HE WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POST AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AND CAME BACK HERE,
MY MOTHER FIRMLY WARNED ME TO AVOID CONTACT WITH HIM...
HE'S A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, AND YET HE DEVOTES ALL HIS TIME TO HUNTING AND DALLIANCES WITH WOMEN! HE'S UTTERLY CORRUPT.....


SEND HER IN RIGHT AWAY! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY CARDS THIS AFTER-NOON
OH..! MADAME DE POLIGNAC?!
YOUR MAJESTY, MADAME DE POLIGNAC IS....
S-...BUT WHY?!
M-...MADAME DE POLIG-NAC....?!
YOU ONLY JUST MOVED INTO THE PALACE....
YOUR MAJESTY, THE TRUTH IS....
I WISH TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COURT I CAME TODAY TO SAY GOODBYE
BUT IT'S EMBAR-RASSING FOR ONE SUCH AS MYSELF, WITH NO POSITION OR WEALTH, TO BE AT THE COURT
IT'S SUCH A SHAME. SINCE YOUR WARM FRIENDSHIP HAS BROUGHT US SO CLOSE TOGETHER....

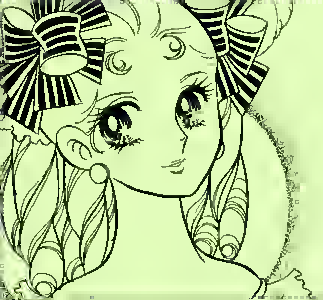
AND WE ARE LACKING IN SO MANY AREAS: OUR SERVANTS... OUR CARRIAGE... THE SIZE OF OUR STABLES... WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW HUMILIATED MY HUSBAND MUST FEEL, I...
I CANNOT GIVE MY DAUGHTER ELABORATE DRESSES TO WEAR,
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO ME ABOUT THIS SOONER?!
NO, YOU MUSTN'T GO!!
NO!!
I REALLY DO THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE LEFT THE COURT...
I SHALL HAVE THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SET ASIDE SOME FUNDS FOR YOU
I'M HERE TO HELP MY DEAR FRIENDS!
OH! MY BELOVED FRIEND, MADAME DE POLIGNAC!
WHAT MUST YOU THINK OF ME?!

THE TREASURY WILL PAY YOUR SERVANTS' WAGES
AND I'LL MAKE YOUR HUSBAND THE MINISTER OF POSTAL SERVICES!
WE'LL HAVE THEM BUILD A STABLE FOR YOU AT THE PALACE
AND QUINTUPLE YOUR NUMBER OF HORSES AND CARRIAGES
OH, OH!!
YOUR MAJESTY!!
OHHH!
BOOOO!
BOOOO!
BOOOO!
BOOOO!
OINK
(Note: Pig's in Japanese)
THE COUNT DE POLIGNAC IS THE NEW MINISTER OF POSTAL SERVICES?! WHAT DID HE EVER DO TO MERIT THAT?!
AND HIS ANNUAL SALARY IS 54,000 LIVRES!! (650 MILLION** YEN.)
THE QUEEN IS TOO TRUSTING!
SHE MAY LOOK KIND, BUT SHE'S REALLY A SHREWD PLOTTER.
WELL! SOME ANGEL SHE TURNED OUT TO BE!

**Annual Around $65 million US


TO BRING MY DEAR FRIEND HAPPINESS...!
AH... I'M SO GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE...
MARIE ANTOINETTE BELIEVED THAT IF SHE WAS HAPPY, HER PEOPLE WOULD BE AS WELL...
THAT WAS HER FIRST MISTAKE...
skrrk....
MAMAN'S GOING TO MAKE YOU THE GREATEST PRINCESS AT COURT
COME, CHARLOTTE
FATHER, I HAVE RETURNED

SMAAA
YOU FOOL!!
A...gh!
CK!
F FATHER ?!
clatter
CRA SH



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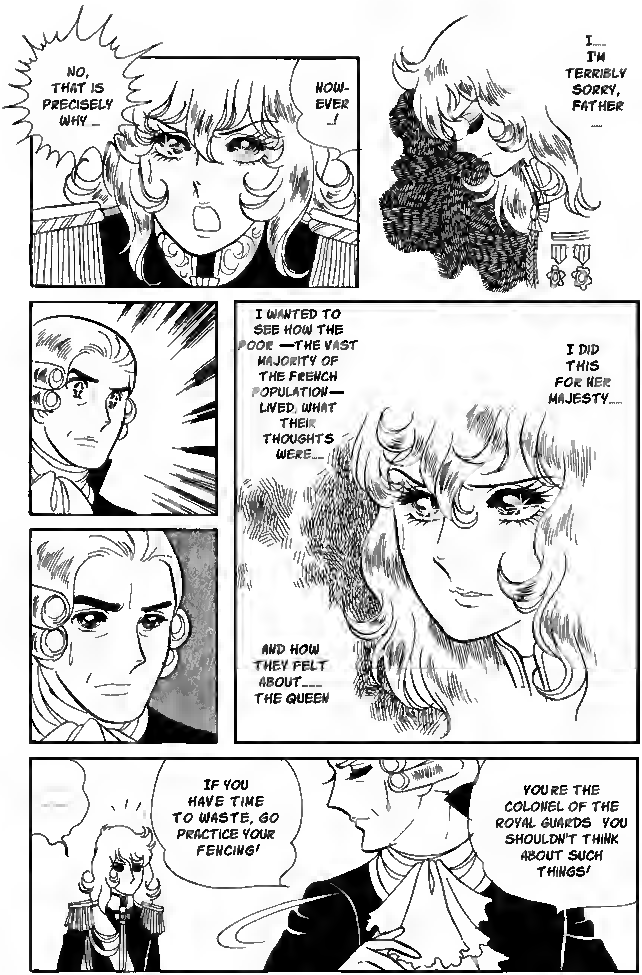
YOU GO TOO FAR, MONSIEUR! MADEMOISELLE IS A WOMAN!!
M... MONSIEUR!!
THIS IS TOO MUCH... IT'S CRUEL!
I WOULD HAVE LET YOU GROW UP AS A NORMAL LADY, BEAUTIFUL AND TREASURED, WITH A HAPPY MARRIAGE...
AH! MADEMOISELLE OSCAR... IF I HAD KNOWN THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE OPPOSED HIM WHEN YOU WERE BORN, EVEN IF IT COST ME MY VERY LIFE!
YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF HIS SIX DAUGHTERS, AND YET...

WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO THE HOUSE...
YOU SKIPPED OFF ON A TRIP
DIDN'T YOU GIVE A THOUGHT TO THE TROUBLE IT WOULD CAUSE THE QUEEN IF THE COURT FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS?!
ON YOUR FEET, OSCAR!!
EVEN IF YOU HAD BEATEN HIM IN A DUEL, HE'S A POWERFUL DUKE
HER MAJESTY HELPED YOU TO AVOID THE DUEL
SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE PERMANENTLY BARRED FROM THE COURT. CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND HER FEELINGS?!


NO, THAT IS PRECISELY WHY...
HOW-EVER...!
I... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, FATHER...
I WANTED TO SEE HOW THE POOR —THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE FRENCH POPULATION— LIVED, WHAT THEIR THOUGHTS WERE...
I DID THIS FOR HER MAJESTY...
AND HOW THEY FELT ABOUT... THE QUEEN
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO WASTE, GO PRACTICE YOUR FENCING!
YOU'RE THE COLONEL OF THE ROYAL GUARDS. YOU SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

CRAAA-
SH!
OSCAR
...YES, FA-THER...
SO WHAT IF HE'S A DUKE?!! IS HE REALLY SO GREAT?!!
CURSES !!
SAY SOMETHING, ANDRÉ!!
SAY SOMETHING PLEASE!!
PANT
PANT
SO, A DUKE IS FREE TO DO ANYTHING HE PLEASES WITHOUT REPRISAL?! DAMN HIM!!

I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU..
LIKE FLAME..
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU LOOK AS COLD AS ICE... BUT HOT-BLOODED PASSION BURNS WITHIN YOUR BREAST...
CLACK CLACK
RIGHT!
A... ANDRÉ, GET A SWORD
WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE

LISTEN! THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN HAS MADE YOU...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED SOME MARVELOUS NEWS!
NICOLAS?!
ARE YOU HERE, NICOLAS?!
HE'S MADE YOU A CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL GUARDS!
A CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL GUARDS?!
Ha ha...
YOU MUST BE JOKING! THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE OF MY STATUS COULD POSSIBLY...
HEE HEE HEE... I TOLD THE CARDINAL THAT YOU WERE A COUNT
A COUNT ...?!
A.....
YES! LISTEN!
YOU'RE COUNT NICOLAS DE LA MOTTE,
AND I'M COUNTESS JEANNE VALOIS DE LA MOTTE!

YES. IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR US TO REMAIN HERE
WH... WH... WH-WHAT IF THE AUTHORITIES WERE TO FIND OUT...?
B... B... B... BUT... I CAN'T CALL MYSELF A COUNT WITHOUT GETTING PROPER PERMISSION... OR PAYING TAXES...
JEANNE! WHAT... HAVE YOU...
I BORROWED SOME MONEY AND RENTED US A LARGE RESIDENCE IN SAINT-GILLES. WE CAN MOVE THERE IMMEDIATELY
FAWN
HEH HEH HEH... I DID IT ALL FOR YOU, BEAUTIFUL LADY...
RÉTAUX,
THE WILL YOU FORGED FOR US WAS IMPECCABLE
NOT ONE PERSON DOUBTED ITS AUTHENTICITY
I HAVE PLENTY MORE WORK FOR YOU TO DO
PLEASE COME LIVE WITH US, AS OUR PRIMARY SECRETARY

WEHE... JUST YOU WATCH...
PFFT... PRIMARY? WE'LL BE THE ONLY ONE!
COUNT DE MERCY PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER WITH MONSIEUR NECKER, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.
I WAS SIMPLY ASSISTING A FRIEND IN NEED
NAG NAG NAG
YOUR MAJESTY!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME YOUR MAJESTY?!
YOU HAVE SPENT AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF MONEY
ON MADAME DE POLIGNAC AND HER FAMILY-

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT SHE IS USING YOU TO ADVANCE HER OWN POSITION AND FINANCES?!
MADAME DE POLIGNAC IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP
COUNT DE MERCY!!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.....
I GOT CARRIED AWAY....
Y-... YOU GO TOO FAR!
MY MOTHER MAY HOLD YOU IN HIGH ESTEEM... BUT I CANNOT ALLOW EVEN YOU TO SPEAK SUCH LIES ABOUT THAT PURE-HEARTED WOMAN!

LOOKING AT THEM YOU'D HAVE NO IDEA WHICH ONE IS REALLY THE QUEEN.
HER MAJESTY BLINDLY SERVES MADAME DE POLIGNAC NOW...
AND I CAN NO LONGER SCOLD HER AS I DID WHEN SHE WAS MERELY THE DAUPHINE.
SIGH——
OH, DEAR...
COUNT DE MERCY?
YOUR MAJESTY...
OSCAR.....

HER WORDS HELP ME FORGET THE RIGIDITY OF LIFE HERE AT THE COURT SHE CALMS ME...
SHE IS LIKE A MOTHER, OR AN OLDER SISTER...
WHEN I AM ALONE WITH HER,
I AM NO LONGER THE QUEEN I AM SIMPLY MYSELF.....
NOBODY UNDERSTANDS MY DEAR FRIEND.....
SHE MADAME DE POLIGNAC...
IS NOTHING LIKE THEY SAY...
HOW ODD.....
IS HER MAJESTY LONELY...?
I COULD NOT BEAR... TO LIVE APART FROM HER!

YOUR MAJESTY, MADAME DE POLIGNAC IS HERE TO SEE YOU
OH... PLEASE... SEND HER IN...
SHE IS THE QUEEN OF FRANCE. THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN EUROPE. ALL OF HER SUBJECTS SERVE HER....
SHE IS DELUGED WITH JEWELS AND FLOWERS SHE PASSES HER DAYS WITH OPERAS HORSEBACK RACING, AND BALLS.....
I HAVE COME TO REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER...
YOUR MAJESTY,
MY BROTHER ASPIRES TO BECOME A COLONEL IN THE ARMY.....
COME CLOSER, MADAME DE POLIGNAC!
OH! THAT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED!

OH I SEE.. SHE'S A CHARMING LADY...
WHO YOU WANT TO SHARE QUIET CONVERSATION WITH FOR HOURS..
SHE RESEMBLES MY MOTHER A BIT, I... SUPPOSE..? THE SORT OF LADY WHO SMELLS OF LAVENDER...
BUT.. SHE DARES TO COAX HER MAJESTY INTO SECURING APPOINTMENTS FOR HER FAMILY..!
ROSE BERTIN'S BOUTIQUE
PATRONIZED BY THE QUEEN
SAINT-HONORÉ
IF YOU HAVE NO DRESSMAKING SKILLS, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO DRUDGE WORK IN THE KITCHEN..
THAT'S FINE! I'LL WORK HARD AT ANY TASK YOU GIVE ME!
THEN YOU'RE HIRED YOU START TOMORROW

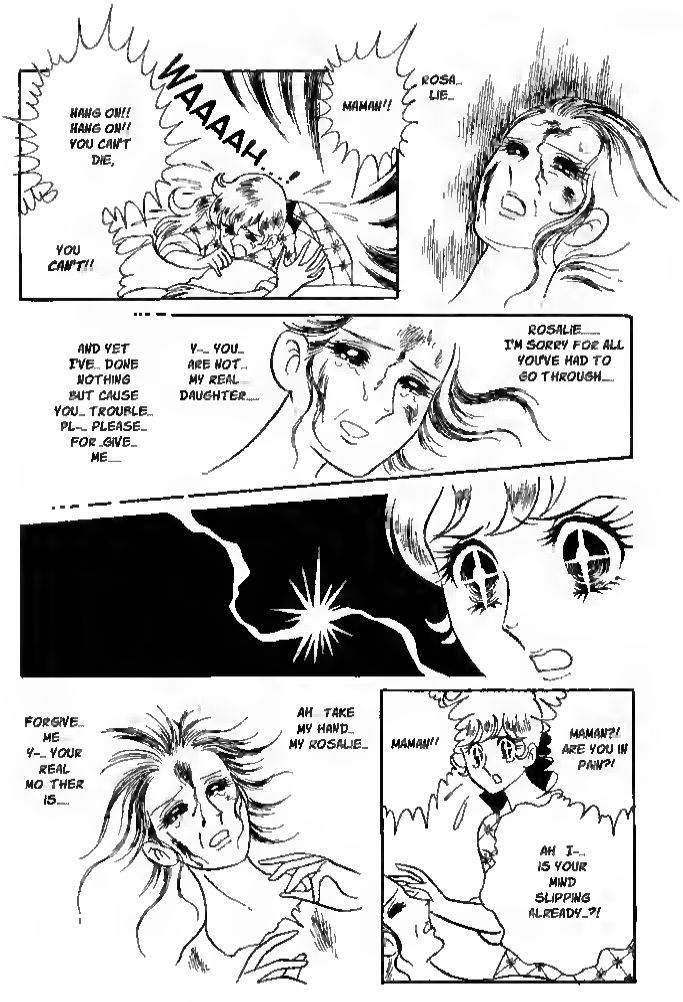
SNEAK
OH! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME QUICK!
MADAME BERTIN IS BACK FROM VERSAILLES
OH.. WOW!!
AH...! ALL OF THE LADIES AT VERSAILLES WEAR DRESSES LIKE THESE.... IT MUST BE LIKE A DREAM!
SIGH
TH-... THEY'RE ALL SO MARVELOUS..!
WELL, MADAME BERTIN DOES CREATE DRESSES FOR THE QUEEN HERSELF, AFTER ALL....

I CAN FINALLY EASE YOUR SUFFERING...
I CAN BUY YOU MEDICINE... AND HAVE A DOCTOR COME SEE YOU...
MA-MAN..!
SNIFF
THANK GOODNESS THEY HIRED ME...
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL BE WORKING AT ROSE BERTIN'S BOUTIQUE!
HURRAH!! I FOUND A JOB..!
START
RO-... ROSALIIIE!!
IT'S YOUR MOTHER...!!
ROSALIE, COME.. COME QUICK...
MADAME?!

HURRY!!
WHAT?!
SHE WAS HIT BY A CARRIAGE WHEN SHE LEFT THE HOUSE...!
HUH..?! WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY..? A CARRIAGE..?
WHAT WAS THAT? AH! SAY IT AGAIN!

MAMAN!!
WH-... WHY... WHY AREN'T YOU IN BED..?!
MAMAN!!
AAAAAAA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! D-... DRIVE! NOW!!
IT'S HER FAULT FOR JUMPING OUT IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE LIKE THAT.
D-... DON'T JUST PUT THE BLAME ON ME... IF YOU PLEASE!
YES, STOP HER!!
W-... WAIT!! ARE YOU GOING TO JUST RUN AWAY?!
DRAG HER FROM THE CARRIAGE!!

AH, YOU DEMON!!
MY MY MOTHER... YOU DID THIS TO HER...!!
IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, COME TO VERSAILLES!
WH-... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
MADEMOI-SELLE!! YOUR MOTHER IS CALLING FOR YOU!
COME QUICK!!
RO-ROSA...


WAAAAH...!
HANG ON!! HANG ON!! YOU CAN'T DIE,
YOU CAN'T!!
MAMAN!!
ROSA... LIE...
AND YET I'VE... DONE NOTHING BUT CAUSE YOU... TROUBLE... PL... PLEASE... FOR .GIVE... ME...
V... YOU... ARE NOT... MY REAL... DAUGHTER...
ROSALIE... I'M SORRY FOR ALL YOU'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH...
FORGIVE... ME V... YOUR REAL MO THER IS...
AH TAKE MY HAND... MY ROSALIE...
MAMAN!!
MAMAN?! ARE YOU IN PAIN?!
AH I... IS YOUR MIND SLIPPING ALREADY...?!

UN..GH...!
HUH? WHAT?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!!
PANT
PANT
MAMAN, WHAT DID YOU SAY?! MAMAN, HANG ON!!
MA..R..TINE.... GA....BRI..ELLE..... DE....
SH-.. SHE'S.. A.. NOBLE....
PANT
PANT
MARTINE.... GABRIELLE....
A NOBLE?!
SLUMP
OH.....

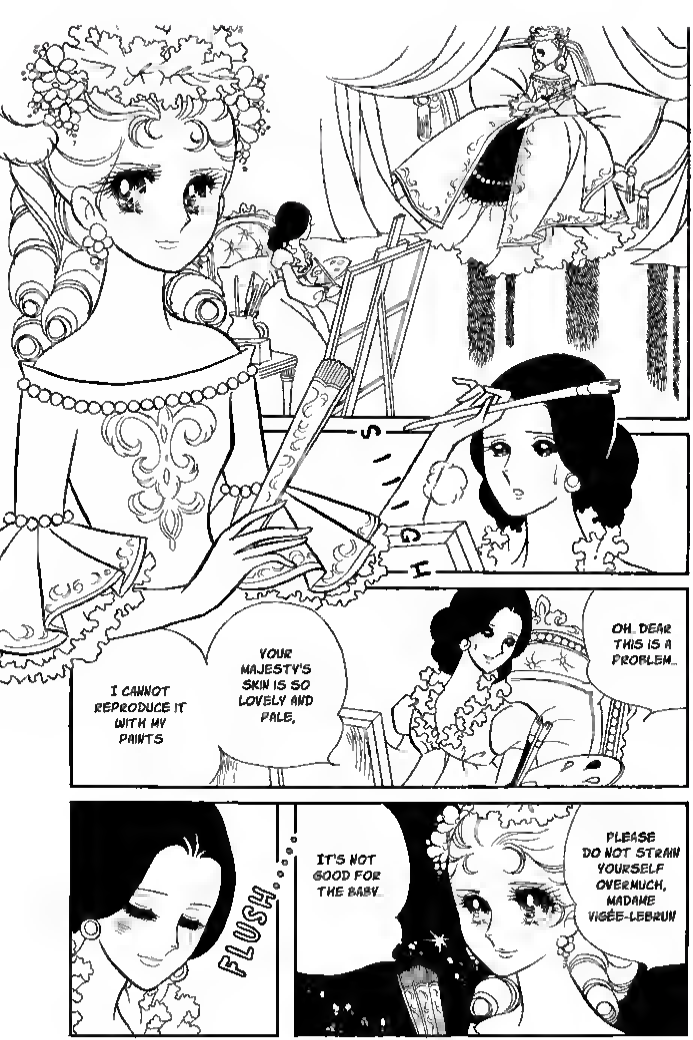
NO! NOOO!! DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!!
MAMAN!! MAMAN!!
DON'T LEAVE MEEEEE!!
MAAAAAAAAH....!

MARTINE GABRIELLE... MARTINE...
YOUR REAL MOTHER IS.....
I'M NOT HER REAL.....
I'M NOT..... MAMAN'S REAL DAUGHTER.....
WHY IS GOD SO CRUEL TO ME...?! WHY..... MUST HE STEAL ALL MY LOVED ONES AWAY.....?
NO...! I DON'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING NOW...

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, COME TO VERSAILLES!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...?!
A BLUE, FLORAL-PRINT DRESS... CURLY BLOND HAIR...
IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, COME TO VERSAILLES
YOU'LL FREEZE.
THE BURIAL IS OVER... I KNOW THIS MUST BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU... BUT THE DEAD CANNOT RETURN TO US...
MADEMOISELLE... HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO STAY OUT HERE?
I'M BERNARD CHÂTELET I'M A REPORTER FOR A PARISIAN NEWSPAPER
IF YOU EVER HAVE A PROBLEM, FEEL FREE TO COME TALK TO ME ANYTIME.

AH... AH... AH!
SOB SOB... SOB...
I'LL... I'LL KILL THEM...
SOB SOB...!
I'LL KILL ALL THE NOBLES... ALL OF THEM!!
I'LL KILL THEM! I'LL KILL THEM ALL!!
EAAE...!!

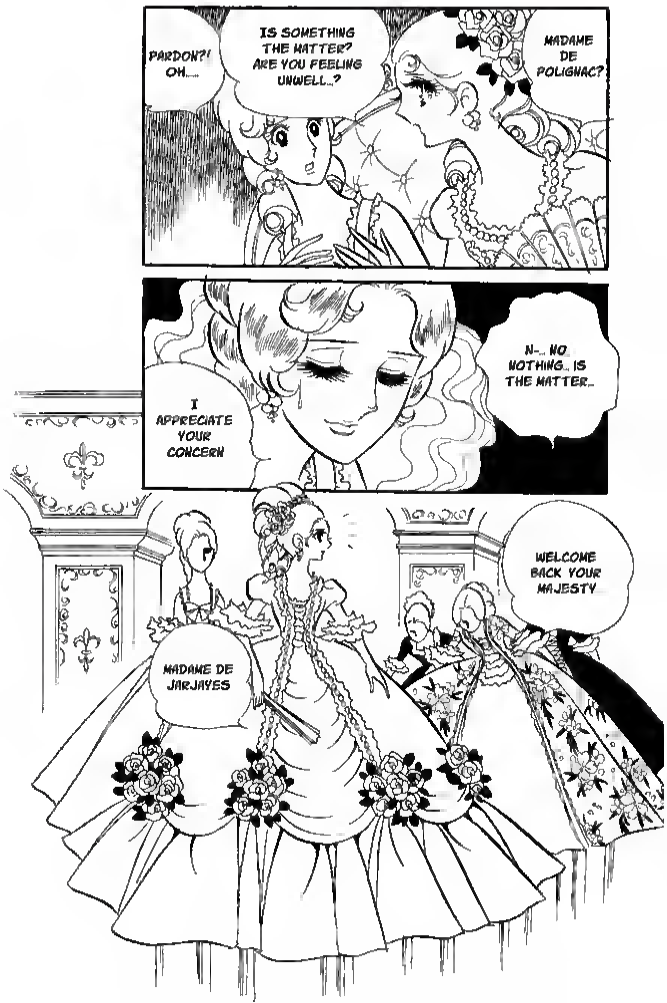
EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, INSIDE THE COURT AND OUT, TURNED TO ONE PARTICULAR SUBJECT..... THAT IS TO SAY.....
ONCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD SETTLED INTO PLACE--THE NEW MINISTERS CHOSEN, THE HIGHEST POSTS FILLED--
AN HEIR TO THE THRONE...!!
THE ROYAL COUPLE HAD YET TO CONSUMMATE THEIR MARRIAGE.
DUE TO A PHYSICAL DEFECT OF LOUIS XVI'S,
HOWEVER, REGRETTABLY...
AS SUCH, MARIE ANTOINETTE HAD YET TO CROSS THE BRIDGE INTO WOMANHOOD. ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT A CHILD FROM HER.


I CANNOT REPRODUCE IT WITH MY PAINTS
YOUR MAJESTY'S SKIN IS SO LOVELY AND PALE,
OH, DEAR THIS IS A PROBLEM...
FLUSH....
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE BABY...
PLEASE DO NOT STRAIN YOURSELF OVERMUCH, MADAME VIGÉE-LEBRUN

OH... I... LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE... I... I'M SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS...
SMACK!
OH!
CRA
SH
SCATTER
SCATTER
IT WOULD NOT DO FOR ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF TO BE PICKING THINGS UP OFF THE FLOOR...
PERISH THE THOUGHT!
I'LL PICK UP THE PAINTS
OH... MADAME LEBRUN, PLEASE REMAIN SEATED!
YOUR MAJES-TY.....
YOU MUSTN'T STOOP DOWN, WITH YOUR STOMACH THAT SIZE.
NO, DON'T MOVE!

YOU MUST BE FILLED WITH JOY
MADAME LEBRUN
AT BECOMING A MOTHER...
Y-... YOUR MAJESTY CERTAINLY YOU, TOO... SHALL BEAR A CHILD ONE DAY...
I KNOW YOU SHALL...
GASP
HEY, OPEN THE GATE!!
HER MAJESTY'S CARRIAGE HAS RETURNED!

CLACK
CLACK
HO
HO
HO...
SHE'S ALWAYS OUT ALL NIGHT I'M SURPRISED IT HASN'T AFFECTED HER HEALTH!
OUT ALL NIGHT AT ANOTHER BALL, WAS SHE? HMPH!
IS PARIS REALLY THAT FUN?
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!
Hoho.....
OH! THAT WAS SUCH FUN!
I'M SURE HIS MAJESTY IS STILL ASLEEP IN BED RIGHT NOW


PARDON?! OH.....
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL..?
MADAME DE POLIGNAC?
N-.. NO NOTHING.. IS THE MATTER..
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN
WELCOME BACK YOUR MAJESTY
MADAME DE JARJAYES

The Rose of Versailles

Chapter 12

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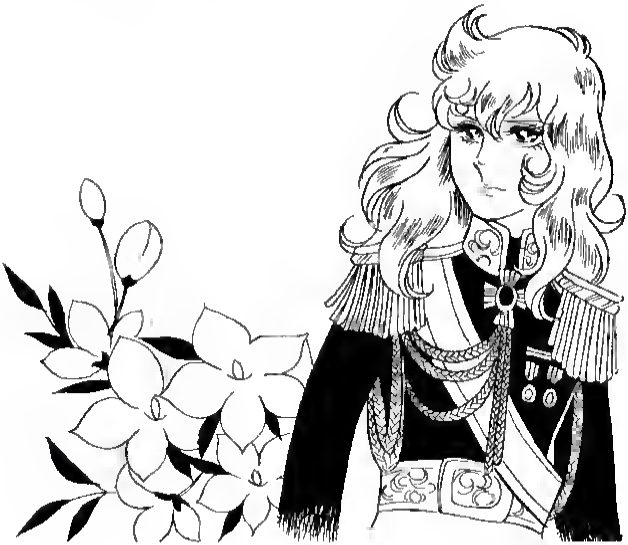
Edited by: Sachie
QC'd by: SpaceTart, The Lory, Sailor Avalon, and Tiny Snowfairy



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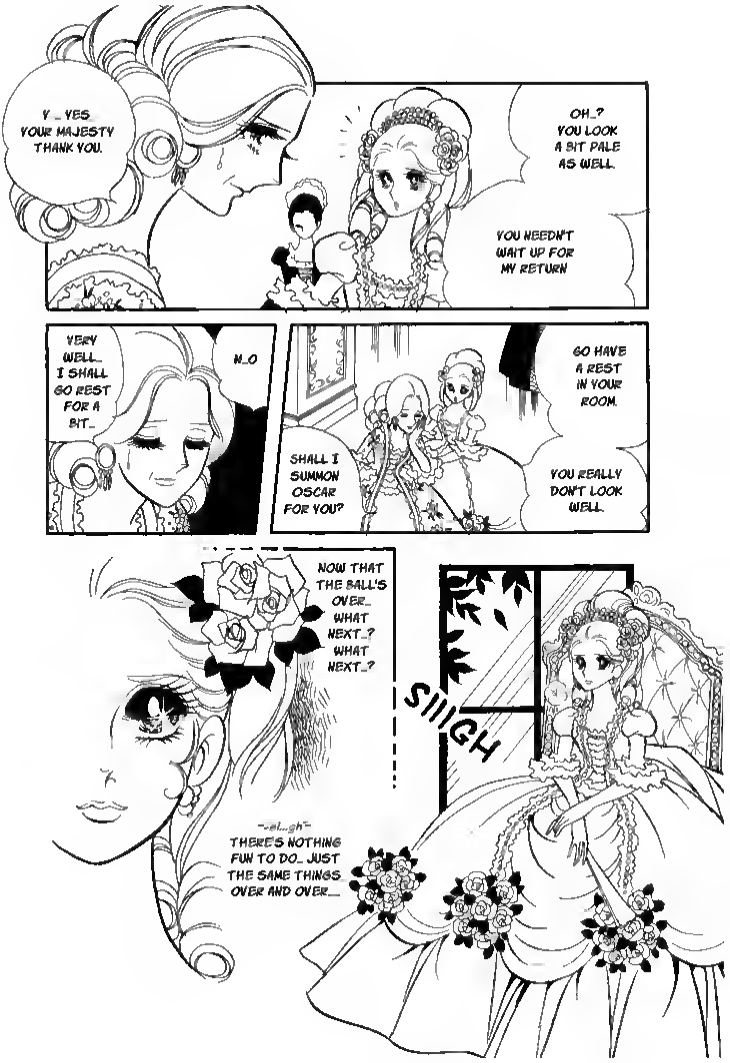
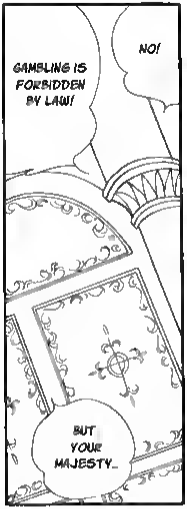
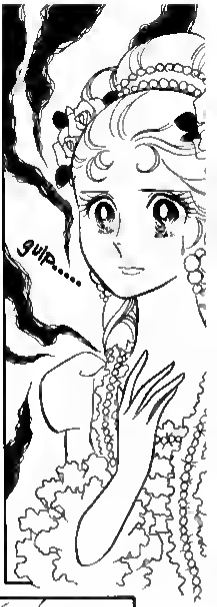

V_YES YOUR MAJESTY THANK YOU.
OH..? YOU LOOK A BIT PALE AS WELL.
YOU NEEDN'T WAIT UP FOR MY RETURN
VERY WELL.. I SHALL GO REST FOR A BIT..
M..O
GO HAVE A REST IN YOUR ROOM.
SHALL I SUMMON OSCAR FOR YOU?
YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK WELL.
NOW THAT THE BALL'S OVER.. WHAT NEXT..? WHAT NEXT..?
SIIIGH
"-si...gh"
THERE'S NOTHING FUN TO DO.. JUST THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER...

I'M SCARED OF BEING BORED... I NEED SOMETHING... TO HOLD MY ATTENTION
BUT... I NEED TO DO SOMETHING... I'M... SCARED
I SHALL TEACH YOU A GAME THAT WILL CAPTURE YOUR ATTENTION COMPLETELY
YOUR MAJESTY
TEEHEE... I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF I WASN'T BORED HERE.
YOUR MAJESTY IF I MAY SAY SO YOU SEEM TO BE BORED
G-GAMBLING?!
WHAT?!
HIS MAJESTY MIGHT ALLOW IT IF IT WERE A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM YOU...
GAMBLING IS SO AMUSING. YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE THE TIME PASSING!
I... I MUSTN'T! THE KING... HAS FORBIDDEN IT BY LAW...

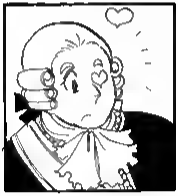
BUT YOU OR I WOULD BE USING THE COUNTRY'S TAXES.. OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY!
CONSIDER THIS— PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS GAMBLE WITH THEIR OWN MONEY.

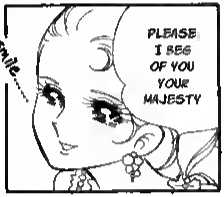

GAMBLING IS FORBIDDEN BY LAW!
NO!
BUT YOUR MAJESTY..

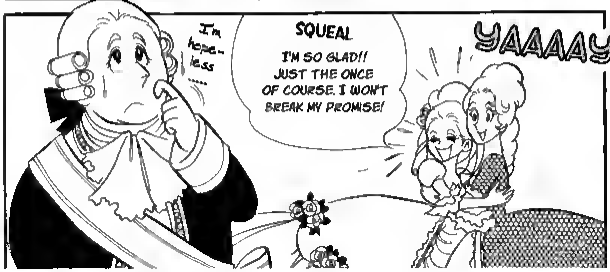

gulp....

JUST ONCE.. JUST ONE TIME IS ALL I ASK!
BUT.. PLEASE..

MM..
VERY WELL... IF IT'S JUST THE ONCE..



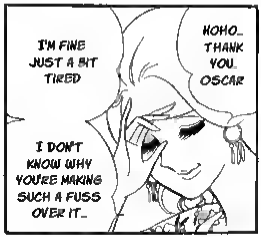

smile....
PLEASE I BEG OF YOU YOUR MAJESTY

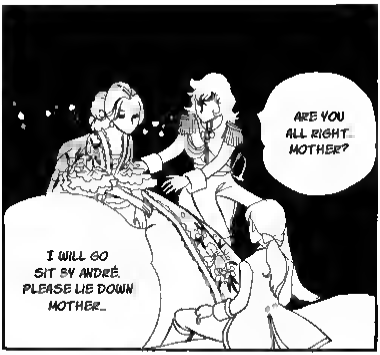

I'm hope-less....
SQUEAL
I'M SO GLAD!! JUST THE ONCE OF COURSE. I WON'T BREAK MY PROMISE!
YAAAAY!

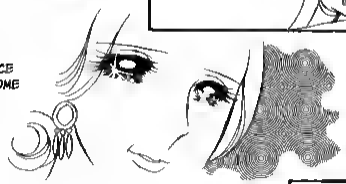
GO BACK AND TRY IT AGAIN!
YOU THERE!! YOU'RE ALL OUT OF STEP!
FWEEE.....!
LINED UP WHEN YOU AD VANCE!
NO NO NO! YOUR HORSES MUST ALL BE
YOU OVER THERE!
THEIR COMMANDER IS NEW...
THIS GROUP LACKS COHESIVE-NESS
THE CAVALRY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE ROYAL GUARDS. HOW CAN THEY BE SO...

HE WAS ACCEPTED ON THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN'S RECOMMENDATION
CAPTAIN NICOLAS DE LA MOTTE.
I GET INTO THE ROYAL GUARDS...
TCH!
AND IT'S BORING! BLEGH! IT MUST BE 'CAUSE OUR LEADER'S A WOMAN
OH...!
YOU TURN THERE!
HEY!! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!

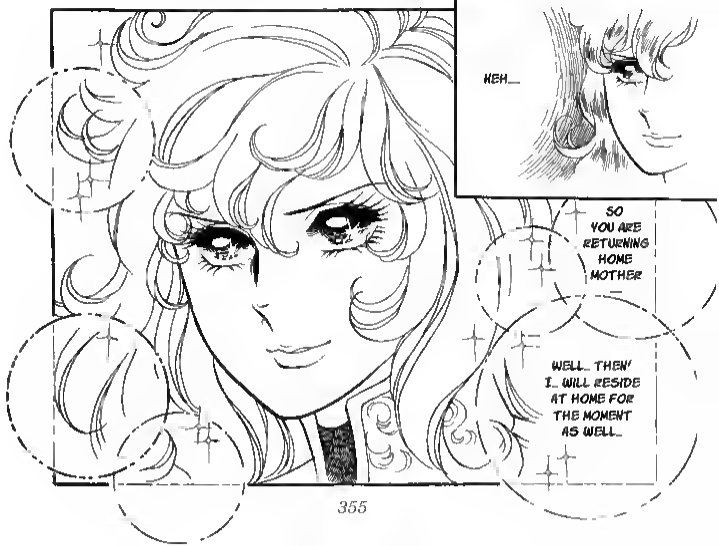
TO TAKE ORDERS FROM SOME LITTLE BITCH?!
HEH... WHO'S GOING
E-... EXCUSE ME..!!
MY MOTHER?!
YOUR MOTHER MADAME DE JARJAYES HAS COLLAPSED IN THE PALACE...
thud thud
C-COLONEL DE JARJAYES!!
clack
clack clack

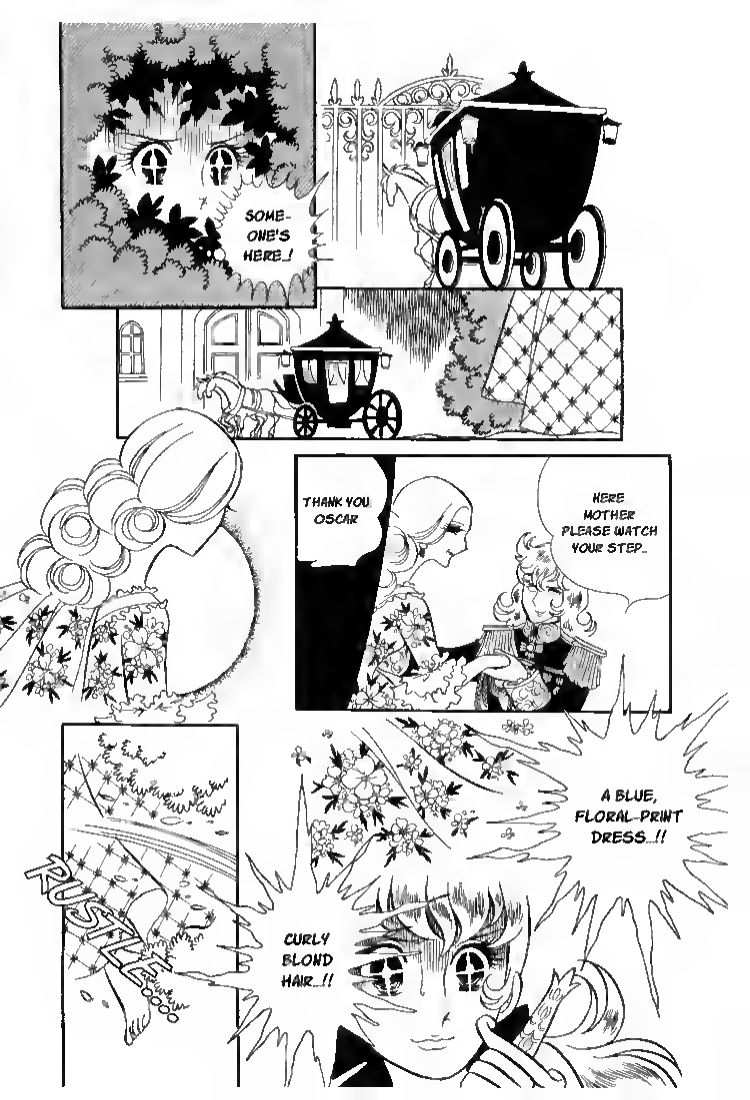

I'M FINE JUST A BIT TIRED
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A FUSS OVER IT...
HOHO... THANK YOU, OSCAR


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MOTHER?
I WILL GO SIT BY ANDRÉ. PLEASE LIE DOWN MOTHER...


HOHO... IT MIGHT BE NICE TO RELAX AT HOME FOR ONCE.
THE QUEEN HAS KINDLY REQUESTED THAT I TAKE SOME TIME AWAY TO REST...

HEH...


SO YOU ARE RETURNING HOME MOTHER
WELL... THEN I... WILL RESIDE AT HOME FOR THE MOMENT AS WELL...


SOME-ONE'S HERE..!
THANK YOU OSCAR
HERE MOTHER PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP..
A BLUE, FLORAL-PRINT DRESS..!!
CURLY BLOND HAIR..!!
RUSTLE

EEEK
TH-
THIS IS FOR
WHAT YOU DID
TO MY
MOTHER!!
gasp
TMP TMP TMP TMP...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
smack!
VILLAIN!!
CLA..CK!
YOU'RE...
Y-- YOU'RE..

OH NO...!
turn
WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST MY MOTHER?! YOU HAD BETTER HAVE A GOOD REASON... OR YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
TELL ME!!
GRAB!
N-...NO...!! IT ISN'T... HER...!
B-...BUT... SHE'S WEARING A BLUE FLORAL-PRINT DRESS...

SHE'LL BE TOO SCARED TO SPEAK AT ALL LOOK, SHE'S TREMBLING
OSCAR! IF YOU GLARE AT HER SO THREATENINGLY...
TELL ME!!
I... I LOOK THREATENING?!
What a shock!
SNIFF...
sob sob ....
YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS THE PALACE?!
WHAT?!

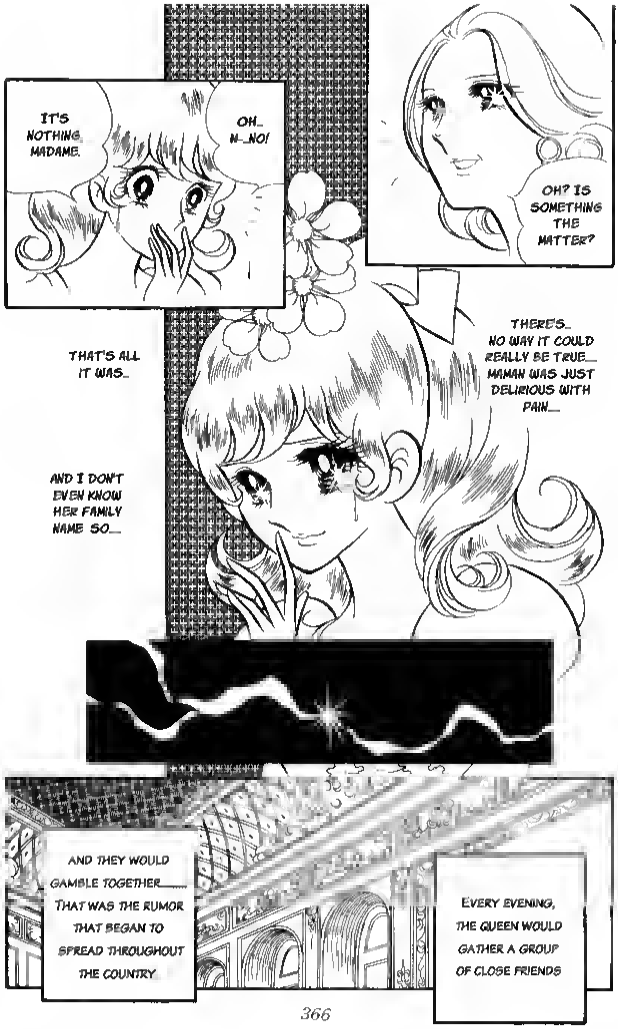
AND... THIS IS SUCH A BIG CASTLE...
W... WELL... THEY SAID VERSAILLES WAS THIS WAY...
stare stare
FOLLOW ME. THIS WAY
EXCUSE ME...?
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
TAKE A LOOK!

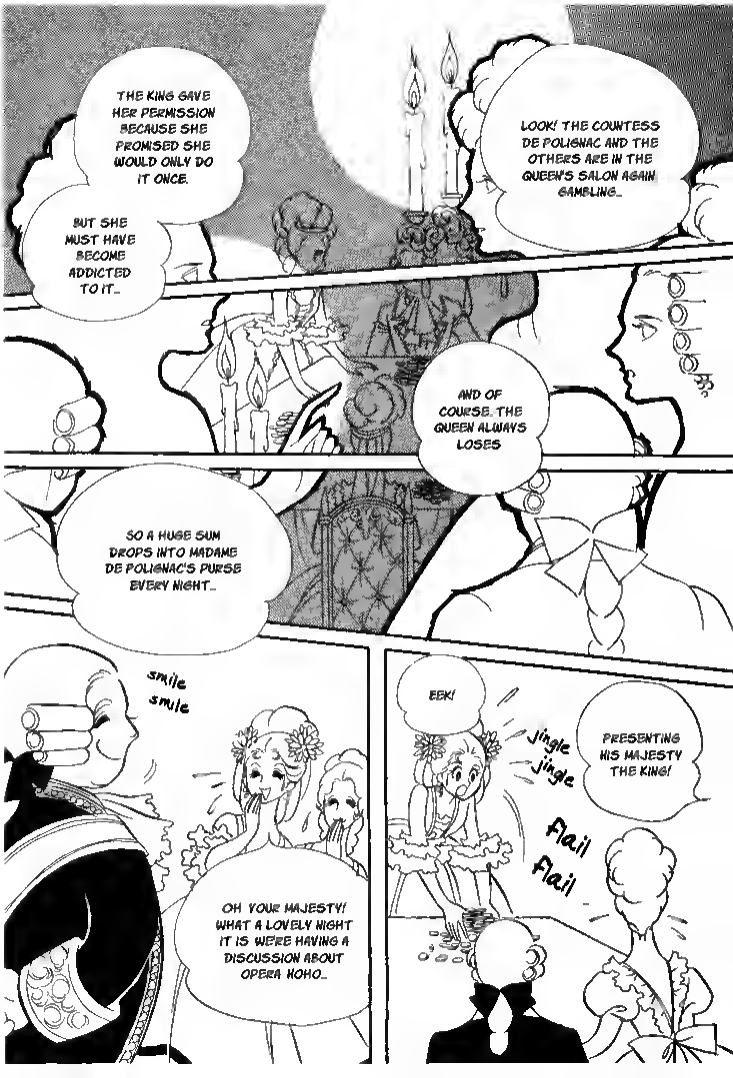
OH....!!
OH_
shiver
shiver
shiver
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD POSSIBLY SNEAK IN
YOU SEE? VERSAILLES IS A CITY
AND THE ROYAL PALACE IS THAT HUGE BUILDING DEEP WITHIN IT

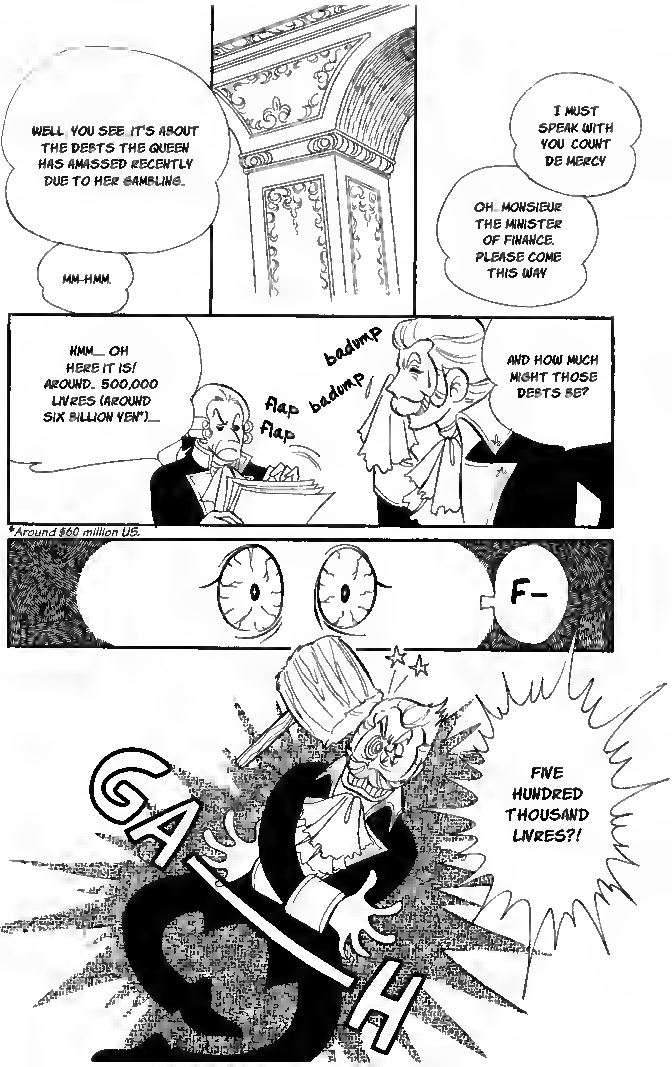
BUT EVERY NOBLEWOMAN HAS A BLUE FLORAL-PRINT DAMASK DRESS
YOU SAID THE WOMAN WHO KILLED YOUR MOTHER WAS WEARING A BLUE FLORAL-PRINT DRESS..
I... HAD NO IDEA....
I... I...
AH... AH.....
AUGH....!
SOB.....
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT WITH YOUR SKILLS, YOU COULDN'T EVEN STAB A PUPPY
IF YOU REALLY MUST AVENGE YOUR MOTHER, THEN YOU SHOULD LEARN A BIT ABOUT HOW TO USE A SWORD
I CAN'T STAND THIS..!!
I SAW MY MOTHER KILLED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.. AND I... CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT..?!

I'M OFFERING TO TEACH YOU IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
He he.....
HUH?
FINDING THE WOMAN WHO KILLED YOUR MOTHER AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AT THE PALACE...
WILL BE NO EASY MATTER... BUT WE NEEDN'T HURRY
IF YOU COME TO THE COURT... I'M SURE YOU'LL COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH HER EVENTUALLY
OH...
SO FIRST... WE'LL NEED TO POLISH YOU UP SO YOU'LL BE A LADY WORTHY OF THE COURT!

HERE.. PUT IT ON
OH.. MY! I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE DRESS I MADE FOR MADEMOISELLE WOULD COME IN HANDY LIKE THIS
ONCE YOU'RE ALL DRIED OFF PLEASE COME THIS WAY
YOU POOR THING! WALKING ALL THIS WAY ON YOUR OWN..
ALL OF THE LADIES AT COURT USE CORSETS TO ADJUST THEIR BODIES
I'M SURE IT MUST HURT YOUR CHEST IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO IT
MARTINE... GABRIELLE...
YOUR REAL MOTHER IS A NOBLE...


IT'S NOTHING, MADAME.
OH... M-...NO!
OH? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THERE'S... NO WAY IT COULD REALLY BE TRUE... MAMAN WAS JUST DELIRIOUS WITH PAIN...
THAT'S ALL IT WAS...
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER FAMILY NAME SO...
AND THEY WOULD GAMBLE TOGETHER..... THAT WAS THE RUMOR THAT BEGAN TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
EVERY EVENING, THE QUEEN WOULD GATHER A GROUP OF CLOSE FRIENDS


THE KING GAVE HER PERMISSION BECAUSE SHE PROMISED SHE WOULD ONLY DO IT ONCE.
BUT SHE MUST HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO IT...
LOOK! THE COUNTESS DE POLIGNAC AND THE OTHERS ARE IN THE QUEEN'S SALON AGAIN GAMBLING...
AND OF COURSE, THE QUEEN ALWAYS LOSES
SO A HUGE SUM DROPS INTO MADAME DE POLIGNAC'S PURSE EVERY NIGHT...
smile smile
OH YOUR MAJESTY! WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT IT IS WE'RE HAVING A DISCUSSION ABOUT OPERA HOHO...
EEK!
jingle jingle
PRESENTING HIS MAJESTY THE KING!
flail flail

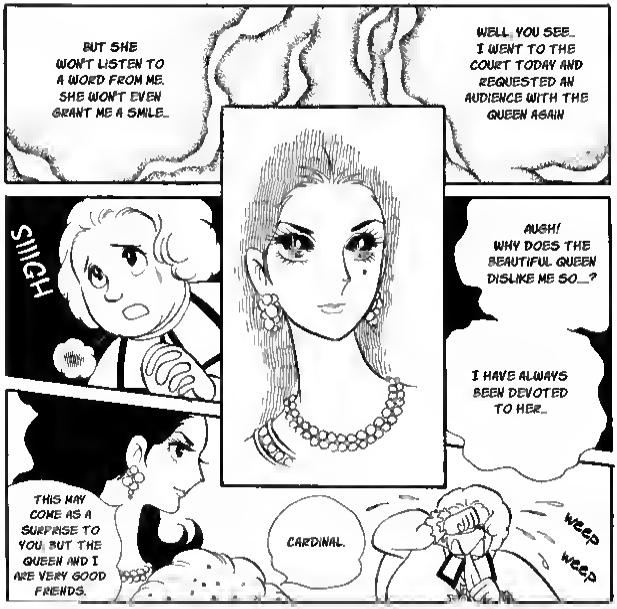

I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU COUNT DE MERCY
OH, MONSIEUR THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. PLEASE COME THIS WAY
WELL, YOU SEE, IT'S ABOUT THE DEBTS THE QUEEN HAS AMASSED RECENTLY DUE TO HER GAMBLING.
MM-HMM.
AND HOW MUCH MIGHT THOSE DEBTS BE?
badump
badump
HMM... OH HERE IT IS! AROUND... 500,000 LIVRES (AROUND SIX BILLION YEN*)...
flap
flap
*Around $60 million US.
F-
FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND LIVRES?!
GASH

THE QUEEN RECENTLY SPENT ONE MILLION LIVRES ON DIAMOND JEWELRY
AND 250,000 LIVRES ON CLOTHING
THUD
THAT IS NOT ALL COUNT DE MERCY
WHILE I'M ON THE SUBJECT...
twitch
twitch
HM? C_ COUNT DE MERCY?!
AND ON THE COUNTESS DE POLIGNAC SHE HAS SPENT...
I CAN REMAIN SILENT NO LONGER!
MY goodness!
SURELY YOU MUST SEE NOW THAT MADAME DE POLIGNAC IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU!
FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND LIVRES?!

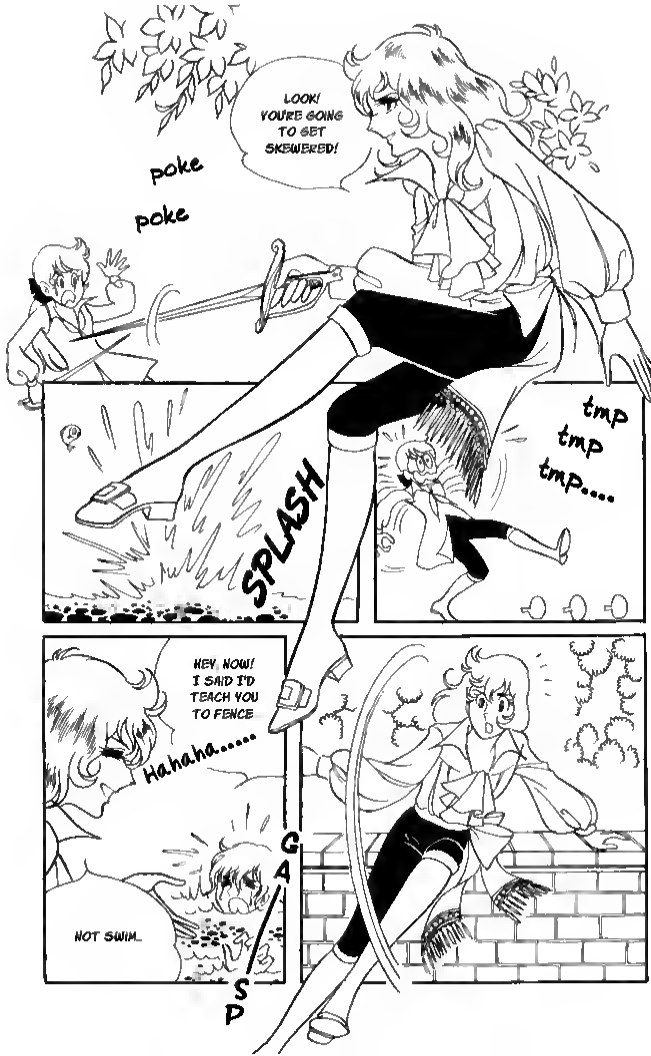
Y-
YOUR
MAJESTY?!
WAAAAAH...!
MADAME
DE
POLIGNAC
?!
YES
YES!
I KNOW
THAT PEOPLE
AT COURT ARE
JEALOUS OF OUR
FRIENDSHIP
AND THAT
WHEREVER I GO
THEY ARE LYING IN WAIT,
HOPING FOR A CHANCE
TO TORMENT ME...
AH!! BUT I
NEVER THOUGHT
THAT YOU WOULD
BELIEVE THEIR
SLANDER!

YOUR MAJESTY... LET US PART NOW... SO THAT DAY WILL NEVER COME.
I SHALL LEAVE THE COURT.
BUT IF WE DO NOT I AM SURE THAT SOMEDAY I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE...
WE... CAN STILL PART WITH NO ILL FEELINGS
AH BUT... PLEASE BELIEVE IN MY SINCERITY THAT IS ALL I ASK OF YOU!!
I APOLOGIZE!
AH! FORGIVE ME I BEG OF YOU!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DOUBTING YOUR SINCERITY EVEN FOR AN INSTANT...
YOUR MAJESTY!
MADAME DE POLIGNAC...!
sob sob... sob.....

A MAGNIFICENT BALL AS ALWAYS, MADAME JEANNE!
NOT MANY HOUSES IN PARIS CAN HOLD SUCH BALLS
HO HO HO...
RESIDENCE OF THE COUNT DE LA MOTTE.
LOOK AT THIS DAZZLING FURNITURE OF GOLD AND SILVER... THESE CROWDS OF SERVANTS...
HEHE. NOBODY HAS THE FAINTEST IDEA THAT THEY'RE ALL BORROWED
CARDINAL DE ROHAN?
MIGHT THERE BE SOMETHING WORRYING YOU? YOU LOOK UNWELL.


BUT SHE WON'T LISTEN TO A WORD FROM ME. SHE WON'T EVEN GRANT ME A SMILE...
WELL, YOU SEE... I WENT TO THE COURT TODAY AND REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE QUEEN AGAIN
SIIIIGH
AUGH! WHY DOES THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN DISLIKE ME SO...?
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEVOTED TO HER...
THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU, BUT THE QUEEN AND I ARE VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
CARDINAL.
WEEP
WEEP
THE BLOOD OF THE VALOIS FAMILY FLOWS WITHIN MY VEINS. THE QUEEN TRUSTS ME GREATLY
VERY WELL. PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME, CARDINAL.
MADAME JEANNE!
TH... THEN COULD YOU TELL HER MAJESTY
H... HOW I FEEL?!
WHAT?!

WE'VE NEVER MET
I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO VERSAILLES..!
AH.. HOW COULD I TELL SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE... I... EVEN FRIGHTEN MYSELF..
THE QUEEN'S VERY GOOD FRIEND...?
HEEHEE.. THIS COULD BE A GOOD CHANCE TO SWINDLE MONEY OUT OF THE CARDINAL DE ROHAN...
N...NO YOU CANNOT LOSE HEART, JEANNE! YOU'VE COME THIS FAR...
WHO TOLD YOU TO STAB THE TREE?! WILL THAT HELP YOU GET YOUR REVENGE?!
HAH HAH HAH.....
stab
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU CAN'T SEE IT WITH THOSE BIG EYES OF YOURS?!
HERE. OVER HERE!
CLAAANG!


LOOK! YOU'RE GOING TO GET SKEWERED!
poke
poke
SPLASH
tmp
tmp
tmp....
HEY, NOW! I SAID I'D TEACH YOU TO FENCE
Hahaha.....
NOT SWIM..
GASP

WAAAH...!
cough cough
AUGH!!
POKING FUN AT MY SERIOUS FEELINGS...
YOU'RE ALWAYS HAVING FUN AT MY EXPENSE,
I'M NOT POKING FUN AT YOU...
...YOU'RE WRONG...
MADEMOI-SELLE... OSCAR...

SHOULD I PUT THIS SHIRT IN THIS CHEST..? GRANNY DIDN'T SAY SHE JUST ASKED ME TO BRING IT HERE.
UH..M..
SHE MUST NOT MIND GETTING IT DIRTY BECAUSE IT'S NOT A DRESS UNIFORM.
HEEHEE! THE SLEEVES ARE SO DIRTY..
SHE'S ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND IN IT..
HER MILITARY UNIFORM..
IT SMELLS LIKE HER...
sigh.....

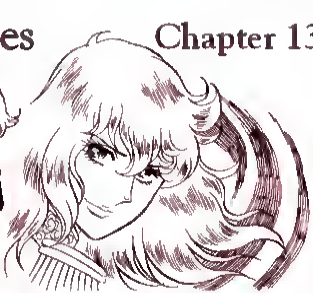
WHY DOES SHE EXIST IN THIS WORLD _?
WHY_
!!
I'M_ ACTING_ WEIRD_
Hehe....

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BE BORN A WOMAN, OSCAR...?!
WHY...?!
BAM!
-gasp-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM...?!

WHOOSH....
GRAB!

The Rose of Versailles

Chapter 13



Scanned, translated, and
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and Tiny Snowfairy

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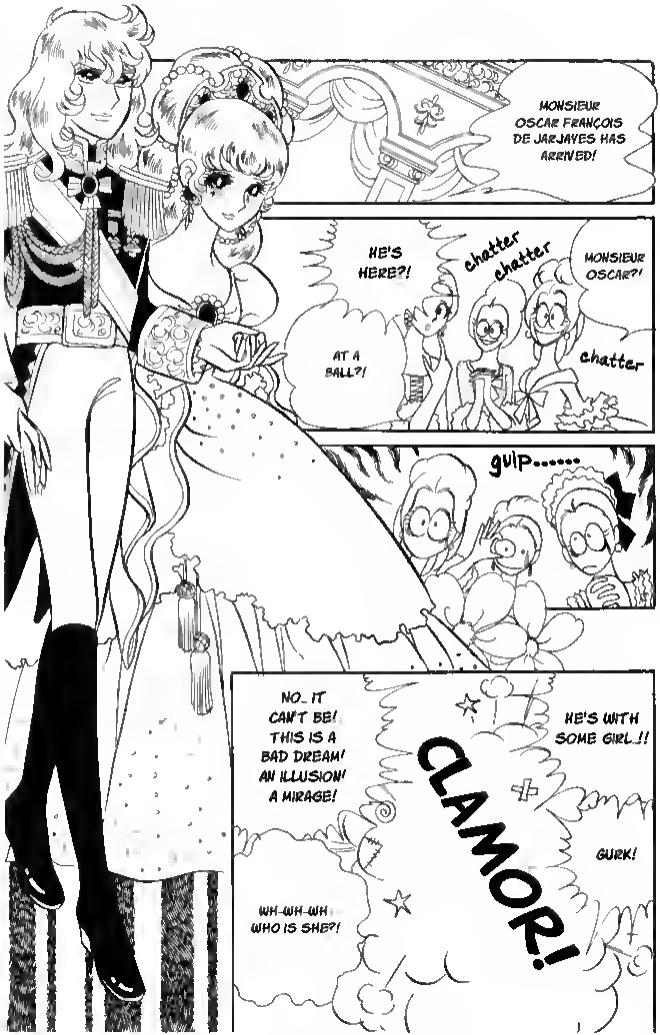
#lilicious on irc.rizon.net

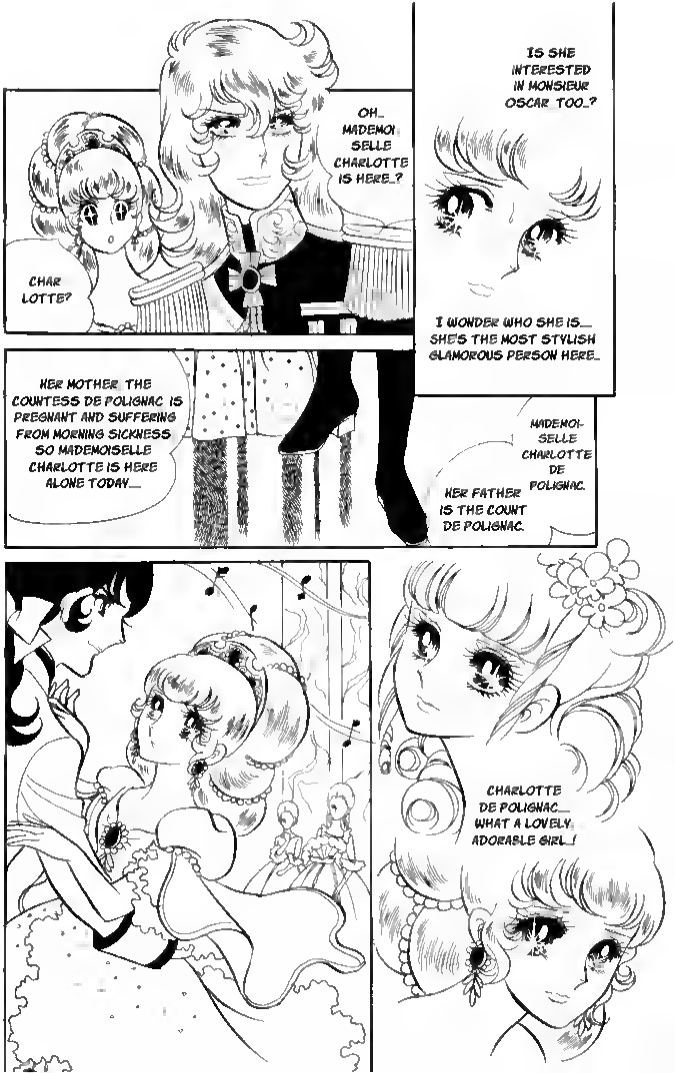
WAIT!
I... I'M SORRY...
U-UM PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
GRANNY ASKED ME TO PUT YOUR SHIRT AWAY...
MADAME ÉLISABETH IS HOLDING A BALL AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.
A BALL ?!
I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME.
I'M SURE MOST OF THE IMPORTANT NOBLEWOMEN HAVE BEEN INVITED

Y_ YES!
CAN'T DANCE WELL_ SAY "WELL" NOT "GOOD"!
CAN'T DANCE GOOD OR AT ALL REALLY_
I_ I
A_ AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT ALL PROPER_
WE'LL GIVE YOU INTENSIVE LESSONS IN DANCE AND CONVERSATION
ANDRÉ WILL BE YOUR PARTNER
WE'LL SAY THAT YOU'RE A DISTANT RELATIVE ON MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S SIDE. ALL RIGHT?
MAYBE SHE_ MAYBE SHE'LL BE THERE_! I'LL NEVER FORGET_ HER FACE_!
A BALL WITH IMPORTANT NOBLEWOMEN_ MAYBE_


MONSIEUR OSCAR FRANÇOIS DE JARJAYES HAS ARRIVED!
HE'S HERE?!
chatter chatter
MONSIEUR OSCAR?!
AT A BALL?!
chatter
guIP.....
NO.. IT CAN'T BE! THIS IS A BAD DREAM! AN ILLUSION! A MIRAGE!
CLAMOR!
HE'S WITH SOME GIRL..!!
GURK!
WH-WH-WH- WHO IS SHE?!

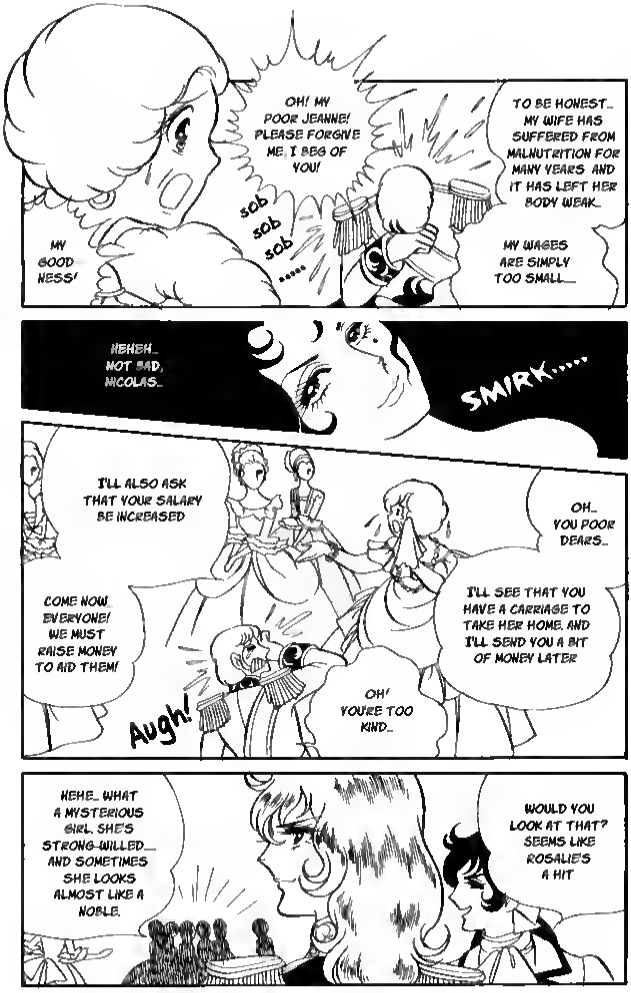
IF YOU DANCE THEY'LL ALL GO INTO CONVULSIONS!
LOOK! LOOK WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE A LADY ON YOUR ARM!
HAHA... I'LL LEAVE THE DANCING TO YOU.
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
SHE IS A DISTANT RELATIVE ON MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S SIDE.
ROSALIE LAMORLIÈRE.
OH...
COME ROSALIE. GREET HER PROPERLY...
MADAME ÉLISABETH
GOOD EVENING OSCAR! I NEVER DREAMED THAT YOU WOULD GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
AND WHO MIGHT THIS LOVELY ANGEL BE? I HAVE YET TO MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE...

SHUDDER
IF looks could kill...
W-WILL I MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE..?
glare
glare
glare
AUGH! NO NO NO! I COULD JUST DIE!
OHHH!
shriek
HE TOOK HER HAND AGAIN!
STOP IT! HE BELONGS TO US!
WH-WHAT A GLORIOUS DRESS. IT'S DAZZLING...!


CHAR LOTTE?
OH... MADEMOI SELLE CHARLOTTE IS HERE..?
IS SHE INTERESTED IN MONSIEUR OSCAR TOO..?
I WONDER WHO SHE IS... SHE'S THE MOST STYLISH GLAMOROUS PERSON HERE..
HER MOTHER, THE COUNTESS DE POLIGNAC IS PREGNANT AND SUFFERING FROM MORNING SICKNESS SO MADEMOISELLE CHARLOTTE IS HERE ALONE TODAY...
MADEMOI-SELLE CHARLOTTE DE POLIGNAC. HER FATHER IS THE COUNT DE POLIGNAC.
CHARLOTTE DE POLIGNAC... WHAT A LOVELY ADORABLE GIRL..!

WHAT?!
tmp
tmp
M-_ MADAME! A WOMAN HAS COLLAPSED IN THE ANTECHAMBER!
MURMUR
A WOMAN HAS COLLAPSED IN THE ANTECHAMBER I'LL GO SEE TO HER
MURMUR
MURMUR
OH_... EVERYONE, PLEASE CARRY ON
TELL ME IS IT TRUE THAT YOU LIVE WITH MONSIEUR OSCAR?
P_ PARDON?
HOW DO YOU DO MADEMOISELLE ROSALIE LAMORLIÈRE? YOU'RE THE TALK OF THE BALL TONIGHT
MADAME ÉLISABETH HAS QUITE A BIT OF INFLUENCE AT COURT. SO IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO ASK HER TO CONVEY REQUESTS FOR THEM.
THE ANTE-CHAMBER_?
THE ANTECHAMBER IS THE ROOM WHERE THOSE SUPPLICANTS GATHER

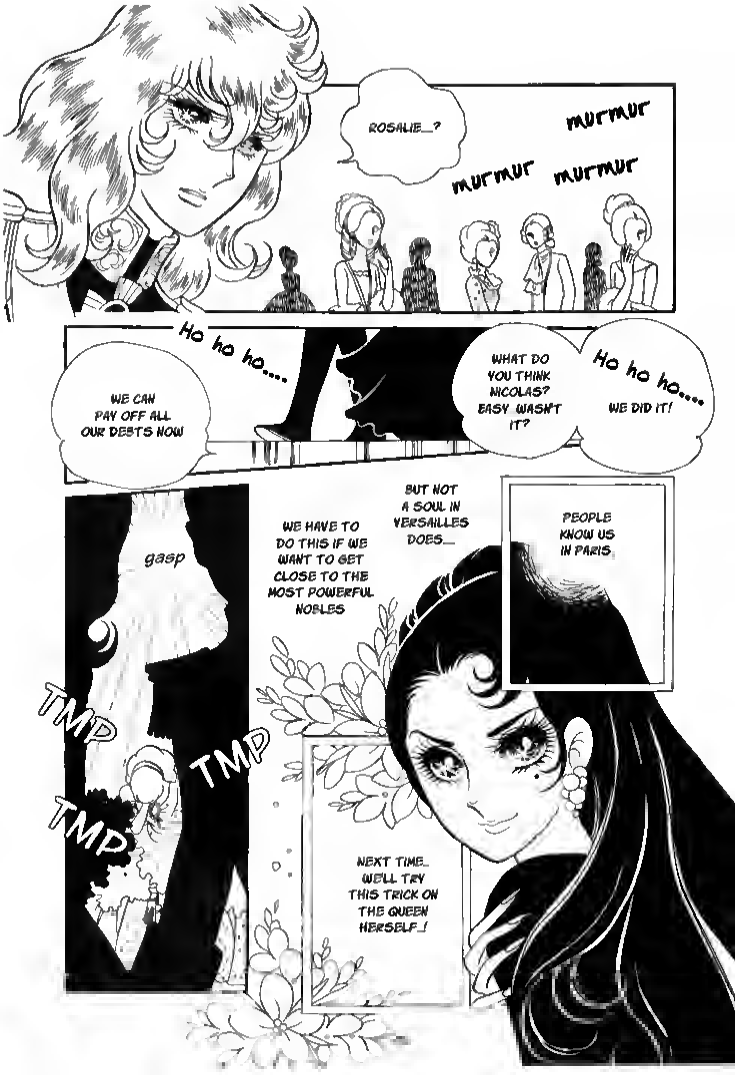
LET'S BE FRIENDS MADEMOISELLE ROSALIE!
WHAT DOES HIS HAND FEEL LIKE?
HOW WE ENVY YOU! IS HE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME?
WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIM WITH A LADY BEFORE, ASIDE FROM THE QUEEN
OOH! AND DO YOU EAT YOUR MEALS TOGETHER?
THE QUEEN?!
OH... I AM CAPTAIN NICOLAS DE LA MOTTE.
SH... SHE'S MY WIFE!
I... IS THIS THE LADY WHO FAINTED? IS SHE WELL?
chatter
chatter


MY GOOD NESS!
OH! MY POOR JEANNE! PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I BEG OF YOU!
sob sob sob .....
TO BE HONEST... MY WIFE HAS SUFFERED FROM MALNUTRITION FOR MANY YEARS AND IT HAS LEFT HER BODY WEAK...
MY WAGES ARE SIMPLY TOO SMALL...
HEHEH... NOT BAD, NICOLAS...
SMIRK.....
I'LL ALSO ASK THAT YOUR SALARY BE INCREASED
COME NOW EVERYONE! WE MUST RAISE MONEY TO AID THEM!
Augh!
OH! YOU'RE TOO KIND...
OH... YOU POOR DEARS...
I'LL SEE THAT YOU HAVE A CARRIAGE TO TAKE HER HOME. AND I'LL SEND YOU A BIT OF MONEY LATER
HEHE... WHAT A MYSTERIOUS GIRL. SHE'S STRONG-WILLED... AND SOMETIMES SHE LOOKS ALMOST LIKE A NOBLE.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? SEEMS LIKE ROSALIE'S A HIT

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A MINUET IS?
OH, MY!
HOW SHOCK-ING!
THE NEXT SONG IS A MINUET WON'T YOU DANCE TO IT, MADEMOISELLE ROSALIE?
HOW LONG MUST YOU FUSS OVER HER EVERYONE?
UM... WHAT IS A MINUET...?
HAH! YOU'RE MORE INTERESTED IN HIM THAN ANY OF US ARE!
THEY'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN YOUR PROVINCIAL MANNERS AND YOUR CONNECTION TO MONSIEUR OSCAR
YOU MUSTN'T LET ALL THIS ATTENTION GO TO YOUR HEAD
KEHEH YOUR MOTHER MAY BE THE QUEEN'S FAVORITE BUT THAT WON'T HELP YOU WITH THIS...
GULP
HUH?! M-MAMAN...?!
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOTHER MADEMOISELLE ROSALIE.

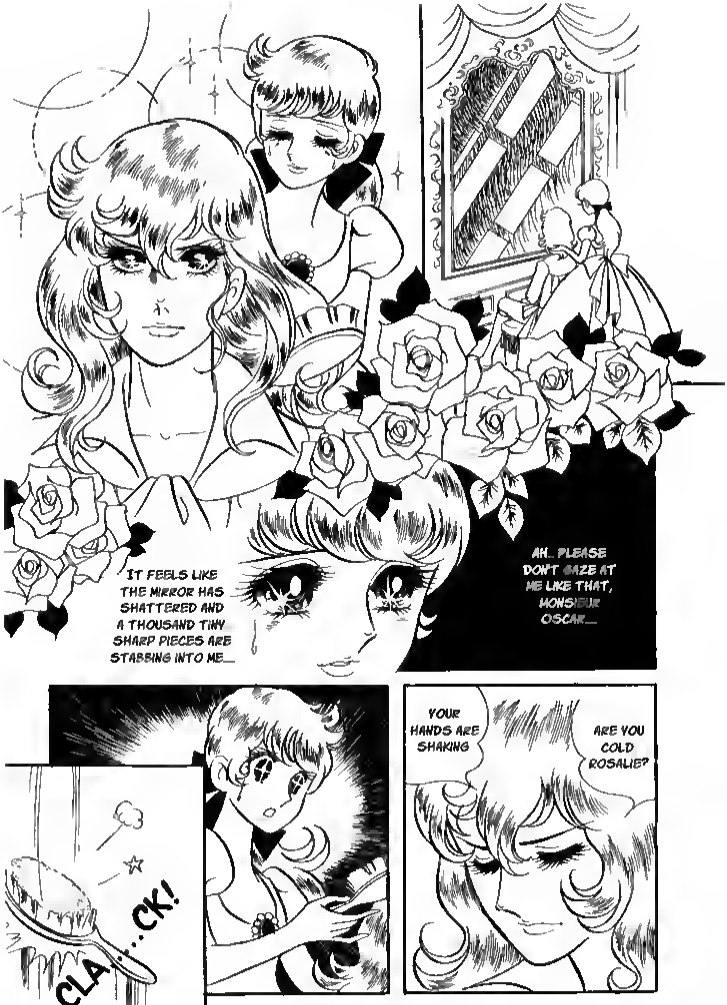
"MAMAN" ...?!
DID YOU JUST SAY "MAMAN"?! "MAMAN"...
My good-ness!
whisper whisper
YOU'RE NOT A NOBLE AT ALL, ARE YOU?!
I'M TELLING MY MOTHER
THAT MONSIEUR OSCAR BROUGHT A COMMONER TO A BALL!
WHAT ARE YOU REALLY DOING WITH HIM?!
WHAT VULGAR LANGUAGE! ONLY POOR PEOPLE CALL THEIR MOTHERS "MAMAN"!
SMACK!
EEK!!

I_
I AM THE DAUGHTER OF A NOBLE!!
I AM THE DAUGHTER OF A NOBLE!
MARTINE GABRIELLE_
MARTINE GABRIELLE_
YOUR REAL MOTHER_ IS A NOBLE_
WHO IS MARTINE GABRIELLE?
TELL ME, MAMAN!! WHO IS MY MOTHER?!
WHERE CAN I FIND HER?!

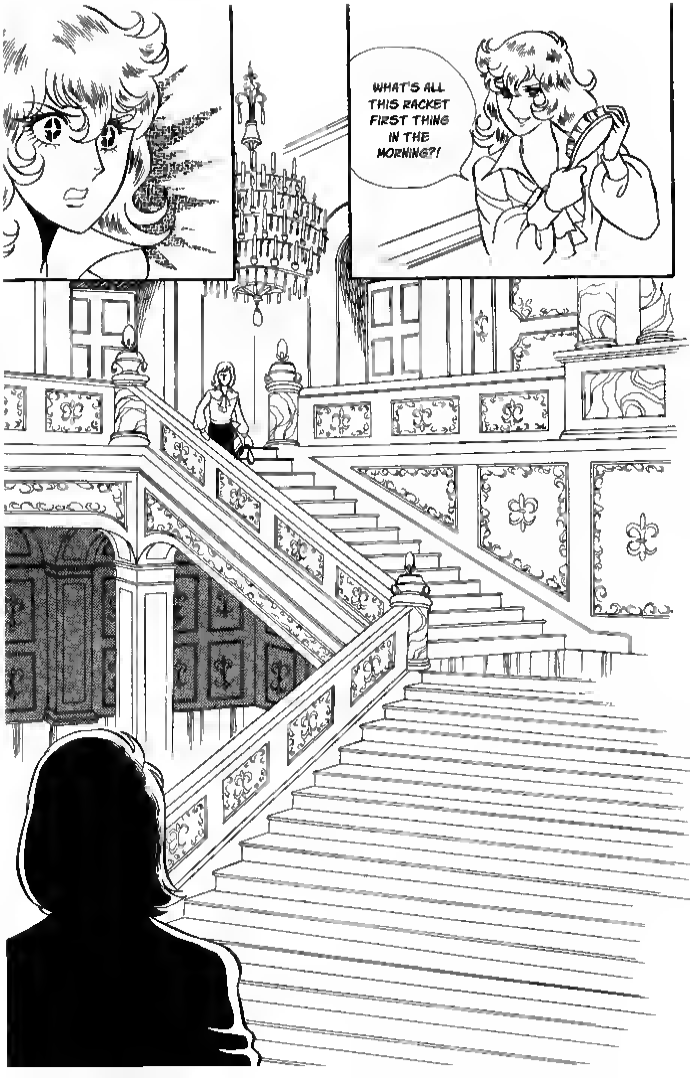

ROSALIE...?
murmur
murmur
murmur
Ho ho ho...
WE CAN PAY OFF ALL OUR DEBTS NOW
WHAT DO YOU THINK NICOLAS? EASY, WASN'T IT?
Ho ho ho...
WE DID IT!
gasp
TMP
TMP
TMP
WE HAVE TO DO THIS IF WE WANT TO GET CLOSE TO THE MOST POWERFUL NOBLES
BUT NOT A SOUL IN VERSAILLES DOES...
PEOPLE KNOW US IN PARIS
NEXT TIME... WE'LL TRY THIS TRICK ON THE QUEEN HERSELF...!

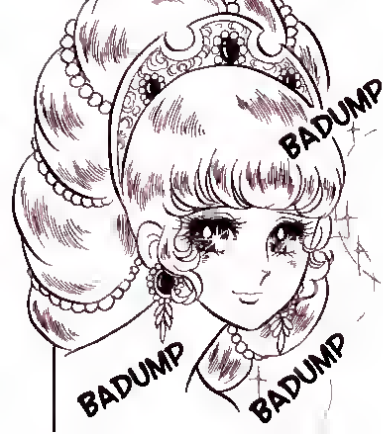
J... JEANNE...
Y... YOU...
JEANNE !!
OH... NOTHING REALLY...
LET'S GO
GASP
HEY WHAT'S WRONG?
Y... YOU MUST HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I'VE... NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
!!
SHOCK
JEANNE!! LISTEN TO ME! I-IT'S MAMAN... SHE'S DEAD! SHE WAS HIT BY A CARRIAGE...
JEANNE! HOW CAN YOU LOOK AT ME SO COLDLY?! IS THE OLD JEANNE... TRULY GONE FOREVER?!

HEY JEANNE I THINK I'VE SEEN THAT YOUNG WOMAN SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
QUIET! HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY KNOW ANYONE HERE?!
COME ON, NICOLAS!
JEANNE... OH, JEANNE!! HOW I'VE MISSED YOU...
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT COULD JUST BURST...!!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME
YOU'RE STILL MY ONE AND ONLY SISTER...
MAMAN IS DEAD...?!
MAMAN...
IS... DEAD...
BUT WHAT IS ROSALIE DOING HERE...?
SH... SHE LOOKS SO PRETTY... A... AND HER DRESS IS EVEN NICER THAN MINE...


IT FEELS LIKE THE MIRROR HAS SHATTERED AND A THOUSAND TINY SHARP PIECES ARE STABBING INTO ME...
AH.. PLEASE DON'T GAZE AT ME LIKE THAT, MONSIEUR OSCAR...
CLA...CK!
YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING
ARE YOU COLD ROSALIE?

KNOCK KNOCK
I_I'M SORRY I_
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL DO THE REST ON MY OWN
K-CHK!
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR_?
OSCAR!
HEY, OSCAR!!
IT'S ANDRE!
OH!!


WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?!



The Rose of Versailles

Chapter 14

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CLACK CLACK CLACK
CLACK!
FER ___
IT_ CAN'T_ BE___
OSCAR_ I'M BACK, JUST AS I PROMISED
FERSEN!!